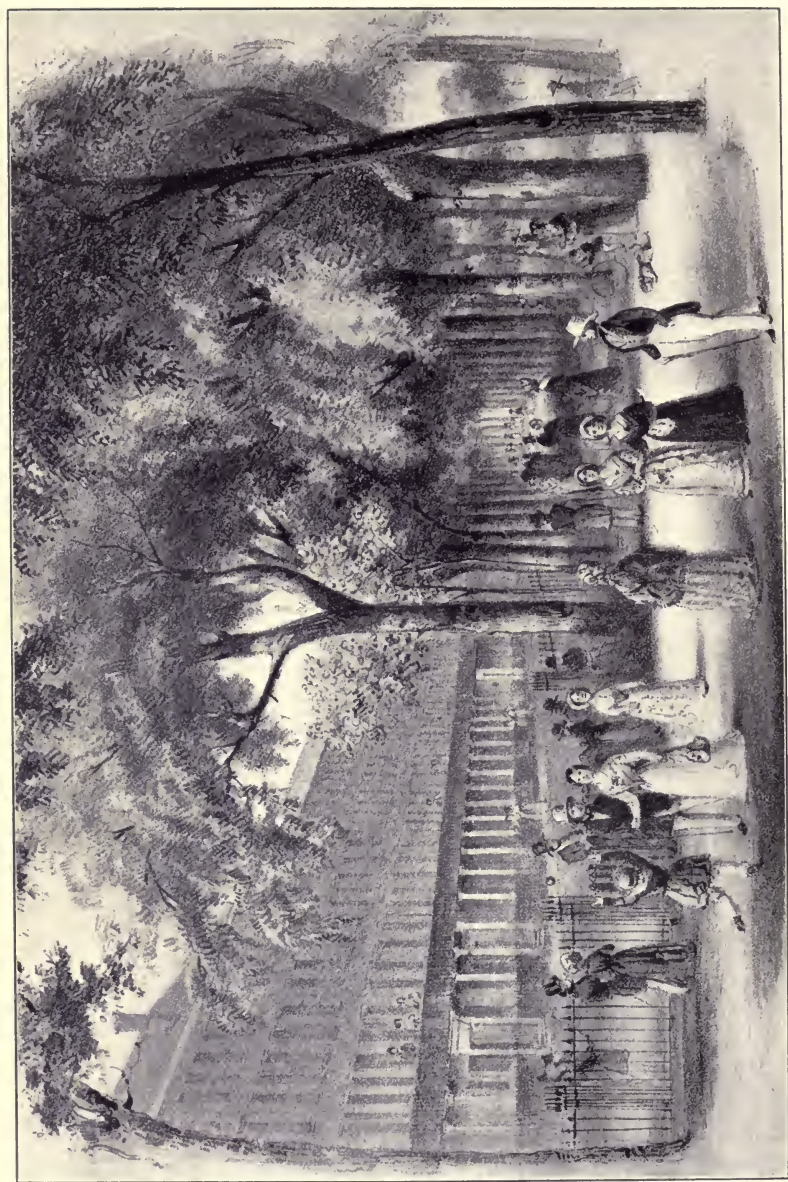


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TREMONT STREET MALL AND COLONNADE ROW.
Looking South from West Street
[From Lithograph by Thayer & Co., Boston, 1843.]

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COLONNADE ROW

BY

SAMUEL ARTHUR BENT



COLONNADE ROW

BY

SAMUEL ARTHUR BENT

Clerk of the Bostonian Society, 1890 to 1899

Extended and Elaborated

By ALEXANDER CORBETT

A Member of the Society



THE purpose of this paper is to give an historical sketch of Colonnade Row, probably the most famous residential block that Boston ever had; to give some account of its environment and of the previous history of the land on which it stood, and to revive a few memories of events that were associated with it, as well as of the more notable men, or even families, that lived in the Row during the more than half century of its existence.

Colonnade Row, a block of nineteen four-story brick dwellings of uniform design, that had a so-called Colonnade consisting of nearly eighty slender, light gray sandstone columns, usually four before each house, was

situated on Tremont Street, opposite the Common, and it was undoubtedly bounded at either end by West Street and the elbow of Mason Street which turns into Tremont Street. Emphasis on this boundary is necessary, because a mistaken system of numbering for the houses in that region about 1820 caused the directories to include in the Row all the dwellings between West Street and Boylston Street, and thus credited Colonnade Row with about thirty houses, instead of the nineteen that really belonged to it.

So probably it was pardonable vanity in the residents south of Mason Street to consider themselves dwellers in Colonnade Row, as long as the directories and the world at large bestowed that distinction upon them, without their even asking for it. A number of chroniclers, generally regarded as good authorities, state that the Row contained twenty-four houses. According to that theory the present Evans House would have been the southernmost house in the Row. But as stated before, the claim was unwarranted, an excellent reason being that there was no colonnade south of Mason Street.

In the earlier years of the Row its unbroken line of pillars, as seen in perspective, looking from West Street toward Mason Street, made the Row stand out in striking contrast to the plainer façade of the block south of Mason Street, numbered from 20 to 24 under the first system of numbering. Yet the entire twenty-four dwell-

ings were equally high-class in all essentials, having been designed to gratify the most exacting taste of the wealthiest families in Boston. In later years, after the columns had been removed from the fronts of the houses of the original Row, there was practically no difference between their appearance and that of those in the block south of Mason Street.

A name early bestowed on Colonnade Row by some wag, and which clung to it forever after, was "Cape Cod Row." It was probably an allusion to the place of nativity of some of the residents in the block, whose beginnings on the Cape Cod sands had been humble enough. When they had arrived in middle life on "Easy Street," as we now say colloquially, they were sometimes not backward in exhibiting to their fellow citizens the visible evidences of their prosperity, — hence no doubt, the phrase familiar in every New England household, "Codfish Aristocracy."

The peculiar feature of the Row, to which it owed its name, a long range of doric columns that stood about two feet outward from the façade of the block, had when seen against the dull red brick walls behind them, a charming sort of Florentine effect that was then novel in Boston, and was duly appreciated by a population accustomed to purely utilitarian architecture of a rather commonplace character. The columns were only as high as the first story. They rested on the sidewalk and their tops supported an iron grill-work balcony

extending the whole length of the Row, access being had to the balcony by the second story windows. An additional attractive touch of a striking character was furnished by a continuous ornamental wooden balustrade, painted white, which ran along the front edge of the roof, also the entire length of the Row. A similar balustrade may still be seen on the roof of the Sears house, 85 Mount Vernon Street, an early Bulfinch production, and now the oldest looking mansion in Boston. Another similar balustrade, much more conspicuous than the one just mentioned, crowns the new building in former Colonnade Row, at 169 Tremont Street, occupied as a wareroom by the Chickering Piano Company.

In fact the new Chickering Building, with its pretty colonnade, would be an almost perfect reproduction of an old Colonnade-Row house, were it not for its glaring white marble first-story front and the tall flat pillars at each side, reaching to the eaves. It is apparent that the architect used the dwellings of the former Row as a model to some extent, even employing old-fashioned rough brick for the front, though not following the original style of brick laying.

Though of similar design originally, the nineteen houses of the Row differed to some extent in their width and the number of windows in each story, in keeping with the varying sizes of the families that occupied them, as well as with the diversity of their tastes as regards entertaining. Some houses had only two

windows on each floor, others had five, but the customary number was three. The iron balcony of the second story offered a most advantageous point from which to witness passing processions or celebrations on the common. It was also an attractive and comfortable lounging place, just before and after sundown in summer, when cool westerly breezes were wafted from the water of the back bay, west of Charles Street, across the Common and the Mall.

In the rear of each house, on Mason Street, was a small, carefully kept garden, sometimes with trees, sometimes with a stable in the corner. Amos Lawrence, at the West Street corner, had a strip of garden, bright with flowers, along the West-Street side of his house, which was protected by a fence that is still preserved as a roof balustrade on the house of his granddaughter, Mrs. Frederic Cunningham, of Longwood.

The view from the front windows of the Row was charming. The three parallel rows of giant elms and cotton-woods along the Mall, on the opposite side of the street, were then in the hey-day of their beauty, and the outer row cast a delightful shade far out into the roadway. As seen beneath the high-arching branches over the Mall, there was a fine vista, the blue waters of the back bay, extending toward Brookline, being dotted with the white sails of pleasure craft and fishing-boats. A familiar sound was that of the gun of the sportsman, potting ducks and other game birds as he waded through

the long grass of the marsh, since reclaimed for the parade-ground of the Common.

Until after 1850 there were no street cars on Tremont Street, or anywhere else, for that matter, and no traffic of any sort, to amount to anything, save that of private carriages, some of which, in that region, with their jingling and glittering harnesses, were, according to the favorite phrase of that day, "of the most elegant description." The outskirts of the business district in the palmy days of the Row were, roughly speaking, represented by Milk and School Streets. The Row was practically a suburban region, and such quietude prevailed that every day was like Sunday there.

It is not too generally known that Colonnade Row stood on ground that had been for one hundred and seventy-five years a part of Boston Common. It is a fact that the Common once not only included the entire block now bounded by Tremont, Beacon and Park Streets, but that it also extended to the eastward, farther than Mason Street, from the the head of West Street southward. Tremont Street between Park Street and Boylston Street may very likely have been in the first place one of those much-derided cowpaths, so often referred to as the beginning of Boston's streets. If so, it soon developed into a cart path, through which Judge Sewall often drove two hundred years ago, as a perusal of his diary shows. When the names of Boston's streets were first published in 1708, the old cart path across the east

side of the Common, probably somewhat widened and improved, was for an obvious reason called Common Street, a name which it retained for about one hundred and twenty years. Not long before 1800 the street was much improved, in anticipation of the development that came in 1811 with the building of Colonnade Row.

As for the small section of the Common sliced off by the future Tremont Street, it was for one hundred and fifty years devoted to a variety of unesthetic uses. Much of the time the town hay scales, which was succeeded by the one now in Haymarket Square, occupied the corner where now stands the Lawrence Building. There was even then an embryo Mason Street, though it had no name. The greater part of the remainder of the territory later covered by Colonnade Row was occupied by the hay racks of farmers who had that place assigned to them as a haymarket. Near the present School Committee Building in Mason Street, after 1717, was the South Writing School, for boys only, and close to it was a gun house, before the Revolution, in which were kept two small bronze field pieces which a band of Liberty Boys secretly removed one night, lest they should fall into the hands of the British, concealing them, it is said, by covering them with firewood in the schoolhouse nearby. Those guns have been for many years past in the chamber at the top of Bunker Hill Monument.

The building now used as a fire engine house in Mason Street, was erected in 1815 by the Massachusetts Medical College, now Harvard Medical School. From its true front, on the north side, it looks like a Bulfinch creation. There are stories of its having been regarded with serious aversion by the women and children living in the Row. Surgery and dissection were not as common as they are to-day, and it is said that the professors were regarded by some persons as ogres, and the students as suspicious characters, who "cut up" terribly within the gloomy walls of their school. Thoughts of the nearby graveyard on the Common were even associated with the "cutting up," for it was a time when the "Resurrection Man," who opened new-made graves for the profit to be derived from the sale of their occupants, was a member of a recognized profession. One yarn that has come down in connection with the old Medical College is that one of its students enjoyed a hilarious evening at the expense of his lady friends and his hostess, by calmly undoing a parcel at a party to which he had been invited, displaying to the horrified gaze of his curious fellow guests a human arm.

But there were some things in the Medical College worthy of the curiosity and admiring attention of the cultured residents of Colonnade Row. Shaw, the local historian, writes in 1816, for instance, that the "anatomical theatre" in the College contained a beautiful

statue of the Venus de Medici, which was used "to illustrate the external forms of the human body." He also describes the apparatus for heating the College, with a detail that seems to imply that it was the first furnace ever introduced into New England. He says: "The College is warmed by a single stove in the cellar, invented by Jacob Perkins. The stove is surrounded by a brick chamber from which a brick flue carries the warm air to the upper story, communicating by large pipes or apertures with all the principal rooms." The name of Jacob Perkins, perhaps the inventor of what became an indispensable adjunct to every well appointed house, cannot be found in any directory before or after that period.

About three dwellings, and a stable or two, occupied the territory between the present engine house and the southerly end of Mason Street. The site of the Boston Theatre was a large estate comprised of a garden and mansion dating from long before the Revolution, which at the time we are considering was the home of David Greene, great grandfather of the present David Greene Haskins. Around the elbow of Mason Street, where the Herald Counting Room stands to-day, was an old house, known as Colonel Hatch's Tavern, though it had probably once been the dwelling of Mr. Sheafe, whose name the present Avery Street then bore. Colonel Israel Hatch, who had come to Boston from Attleboro, started the Mason-Street tavern soon after the Revolu-

tion. His military title easily suggests that he may have been a Revolutionary veteran, and that groups of his former brothers in arms may have been seen on winter evenings gathered about his cosy tap-room fire, re-telling their experiences at Lexington or Bunker Hill as they drank their toddy.

In subsequent years Colonel Hatch kept the White-Horse Tavern, a few feet south of Avery Street on Washington Street, where he advertised to entertain "gentlemen and ladies," assuring them that he had "a spacious house and liquors good." Later still he catered to the big business men of the day at the old Royal Exchange Tavern, on the westerly corner of Exchange Street and State Street, the house of tragic memory, where in 1728 the gamblers' quarrel had taken place that led to a duel on the Common between Henry Phillips and Benjamin Woodbridge, in which the latter was killed. Phillips, a relative of the Faneuils, fled to Europe, and died there soon afterward of remorse or grief.

To return to the northerly end of Colonnade Row, — from West Street, extending along Tremont Street to the site of St. Paul's Church, was an ancient estate that had been the property of Jonathan Williams, who deserved more attention from the chronicler than he has ever yet received. He will be referred to again later. A subsequent owner of the estate was Sheriff Greenleaf, grandfather of the wife of Bulfinch, the architect

of Colonnade Row. The Sheriff was a tory, but he had the good sense not to leave with the British on the evacuation of the town in 1776. He was in 1768 a rather inglorious hero in the fracas due to an attempt to compel certain dwellers in the old Manufactory House in Hamilton Place to submit to the quartering of British soldiers "in their midst." It was at the time of the first arrival of the troops, during the Stamp Act troubles. The tenants of the house refused to admit their prospective red-coated lodgers, and the Sheriff gained entrance surreptitiously to the cellar, where he was taken captive by the tenants and held till a squad of soldiers came from the camp on the Common and released him. But the soldiers never obtained the coveted lodging.

Major James Swan, a very rich man, who made his money in France, and who was fond of making a display of it, succeeded the Sheriff as owner of the Tremont Street estate, and though he was in France much of the time, his wife, known as Madam Swan, lived in the old house on a scale that rendered her one of the interesting characters of the town, in the early part of the last century. At the same period there was living in the old Greene mansion, referred to as having been on the site of the rear of the Boston Theatre, a girl, born in 1785, who later became Mrs. Ralph Haskins, and who when 83 years old wrote out some of her girlhood memories. They have never been published, but are still preserved by her grandson.

Mrs. Haskins wrote that Madam Swan owned the land on which Colonnade Row was built, or a portion of it, and that she had protracted litigation over it with a Frenchman. If so, the details have been lost to this generation. But her vague memory of "litigation with a Frenchman" is curious, in view of the fact that Major Swan is said to have brought to Boston during the French Revolution a ship load of the effects of rich French families, entrusted to his care by their owners, who had prepared to save their heads by flight, but who were executed nevertheless, and consequently never made personal demand for the return of their property. There was certainly possible occasion for future litigation.

However that may be, this Swan story leads to the curious revelation that such interesting historic personages as Mme. Du Barry, Mme. Roland, Mme. Tallien, and Josephine Beauharnais, later Empress of the French, had a sort of attenuated association with Colonnade Row through Major Swan, for he passed the last twenty-one years of his life in the prison of St. Pelagie, in Paris, because he refused to pay a debt which he declared was not a bona-fide one. And his prison was the same in which the ladies above-named had only a few years earlier been incarcerated, hourly expecting death by the guillotine. It is odd too, that Major Swan's eventual liberation, only a short time before his death, was due to the Revolution of 1830, which placed

on the throne of France, Louis Philippe, a former guest in Boston of one of the Major's Colonnade-Row friends, George Bethune. About the time the Row was built, the Swan estate became a place of amusement, with a theatre, and it was called Vauxhall Gardens, after a famous and fashionable resort in London. So much for one portion of the environment that awaited the advent of Colonnade Row.

Now for the front prospect from the Row, which was a veritable dream. That portion of Tremont Street Mall between West and Park Streets had been a favorite evening walk since a period not long after the founding of the town. It had been less popular, for generations, in the day-time, solely because during the first one hundred years or more not only that region, but the entire Common was practically destitute of trees.

In 1725, Deacon Jonathan Williams, of Brattle Street Church, a hard-headed grain dealer, though not without a bit of sentiment, whose extensive estate opposite the Mall was destined to become later the Vauxhall Gardens, having his mind always concerned with the Common, because his duty was to collect for the town the fees derived from the pasturing of the cows there, conceived the idea of starting a Mall like Pall Mall in London. He sent to London and got a large number of small trees which he planted along the future Tremont Street edge of the Common, almost as far as Boylston Street, and he received the cordial thanks of

the town, which also adopted strict ordinances to protect the saplings from vandals.

After about ten years the town planted a parallel row and finally a third, so that by the time of the Revolution there was a fine Mall, which in later years, as many still remember, became one of the crowning glories of Boston, especially on Fourth of July, when twin cathedral arches of verdure from Park Street to Boylston Street were always resplendent with scores of strings of bright bunting and of flags of all nations. Many remember how the last of those once beautiful rows of giant trees, that had been gradually dying off for want of proper care, finally disappeared under the ruthless axe of the laborers who built the subway beneath the Mall nearly twenty years ago. For many years Thomas Hancock, and later John Hancock, were especially commissioned by the town to care for and protect those trees, and the love with which they regarded them was shown by both having attempted, though not with permanent success, to start a similar Mall along Beacon Street.

Samuel A. Drake's statement that Boston became so poor in 1811 that it sold the portion of the Common that furnished a site for Colonnade Row, is not exactly correct, because some of it, at least, was sold as early as 1795, after due authorization by town meeting. Henry Jackson, who bought four of the lots, those now third, fourth, fifth and sixth, counting from West

Street, was one of the first of a number of speculators who handled the land before it got into the hands of those who were to build on it.

There is excellent reason for believing that this Henry Jackson was the Major General of that name, a gallant Revolutionary soldier, portly and jovial, who was facetiously credited by his friend General Nathaniel Greene with the ability to "devour a dish of fish so high that he could not see over it." The General was an intimate friend of the Swans, and may have induced Madam Swan to speculate a bit in Colonnade Row land, as already suggested by Mrs. Haskins' memoirs.

David Greenough, a wealthy merchant and the most noted real estate operator of his time, with James Freeman, a future resident of the Row, and possibly with other associates, had possession of the territory in 1811, and built the block, by an odd coincidence, on plans drawn by the chairman of the Selectmen, who had been concerned in the sale of the land by the town, namely, Charles Bulfinch, whose name has been chiefly preserved to posterity by the so-called Bulfinch front of the State House. Mr. Greenough, who bottled up the ancient mansion of the Royal Governors, Province House, ninety-seven years ago, by building all around it, must have been a pioneer settler on outer Beacon Street, for he was living "on the Mill Dam" when he died in 1836.

The four lots sold by the State to Henry Jackson in 1795, for appoximately \$9,100, or about \$2,275 each, afford a striking illustration of the effect of the growth of population on land values. The total assessed valuation of the four lots for 1914 is \$1,645,200. Here is an even more interesting example: The site of Amos Lawrence's house, on the West Street corner, assessed for \$40,000 in 1861, has mounted to \$1,148,000 in 1914. The above are merely land valuations.

After the middle of the last century differences in the aspect of the different dwellings were observable, and were constantly increasing, as sections of the iron balcony or the roof-balustrade, or the colonnade were removed; or in some cases the entire front of the house reconstructed, or the upper story heightened. A marked transformation was made in several instances by substituting for the slight protection of the colonnade that of a small porch with columns and a double door. The second house from West Street was thus treated, and painted white or cream color in addition. A photograph taken in the fifties, showing the first five or six houses of the Row looking from West Street, shows the colonnade on only three of them. The remainder of it had probably been entirely banished by that time. Save in the case of one or two houses, however, the balconies remained intact to the end. The absence of the pillars and the balcony no doubt afforded a better view up and down the street and made the first-story rooms lighter.



SITE OF COLONNADE ROW IN 1800.

Tremont Street and the Mall, looking South from West Street.

At the left is a corner of the wall of Washington Gardens, and behind it the Hay Scales. In the middle distance is Hatch's Tavern, backed by the Haymarket Theatre, and to the right the William Foster house, on the Southeast corner of the Common.

The three upper stories of two of the old dwellings, possibly five of them, may be seen to-day, one evidence of their identity being the projection of the store on the ground floor beyond the upper stories, just as the colonnade once did. No. 158 is the best preserved, the chief changes being an ugly bay window and a mansard roof, which makes the house one story higher than it originally was. An attractive detail to be observed in this front is the unusual arrangement of the bricks, every alternate brick being laid endwise. It is a style that went out of practice soon after Colonnade Row was built, more's the pity, for the effect is decidedly pretty. Another original front, No. 168, is sadly disfigured by modern additions. The fronts of Nos. 164, 165 and 166 appear to be original, but there is a little doubt about it.

Two still existing specimens, elsewhere, of the Colonnade-Row type of dwellings, are Nos. 54 and 55 Beacon Street. No. 55 was once the home of Prescott the historian. These two houses differ from those in the old Row mainly in having swell fronts, and in being painted. They have every appearance of a Bulfinch design.

A phase of this subject that is worth a moment's consideration is the evolution in dress illustrated by the successive generations of men and women who lived in the Row. Some of the pioneer residents still clung to the garb of the Revolutionary period, the men to

knee breeches, silk stockings, glittering shoe buckles, and hair confined in a queue. The women, at least on state occasions, adhered to the straight-laced bodice, the powdered hair and black beauty-patches of the Marie Antoinette regime. In the younger set, emancipated from things gone-by, the men wore short-waisted, long-tailed coats with collars half way up to the back of their heads and gray or dove-colored skin-tight trousers, preserved from wrinkles by being held down by a strap passing under the instep. The women had graduated into short flaring skirts, mutton-leg sleeves and coal-scuttle bonnets, beneath which could be seen on either side of the face the hair, as often artificial as real, arranged in clusters of big puffs. Such was the setting of Dorothy Hancock Scott's wrinkled face, as is shown in a portrait of the period, when she sat on a balcony in Colonnade Row in 1824, and bowed to her old friend General Lafayette as he passed by, the chief figure in the greatest procession Boston had ever known. The men of the next generation appeared in "claw-hammer" coats of dark red or blue, with gilt buttons, and in hats that justified the traditional name of "stovepipe," for they were tall and straight enough to be so considered, and the flat rim was a good imitation of the iron "collar" which encircles the end of a stovepipe where it enters the chimney-hole. The women had come to require a whole sidewalk of reasonable width for their monstrous hoopskirts, and their pretty eyes were flanked

by plastered masses of hair, like blinders on a horse's bridle. The last period of the Row was characterized by the still well-remembered, rather grotesque style known as the Grecian Bend, with its affected pose and mincing gait, accompanied by the most monstrous bustle behind, of which there is any record in sartorial annals; hats as flat as platters, tipped forward at an angle of forty-five degrees, over a mountain of hair, more or less artificial, known as chignons or waterfalls; and finally, curls two feet in length, that fell down over the corsage. Yet how the departed inhabitants of the Row, who represented "the glass of fashion and the mould of form" in their day, would stare if they could see some of the recent modes displayed in the shop windows of their former habitat, a background to-day for the most fashionable downtown promenade in Boston.

The earliest list of names of residents of the Row it has been possible to get, is of about the year 1820. A majority of the occupants were probably owners then, as they were later, and probably the greater number of this list were the first owners. Here are such names as have been ascertained, in the order in which they came in the Row, beginning at West Street, and including the avocations as given in the directories: No. 1, Amos Lawrence, merchant; 2, Moses Wheeler, merchant; 3, Thomas Williams, distiller; 4, Benjamin Rich, merchant; 5, John Parker, Jr., merchant; 6, James Freeman; 7, Ebenezer Parker, gent.; 8, Silas Tarbell, shoe

dealer ; 9, Isaac Stevens, gent. ; 10, Samuel Bradford ; 11, Thomas K. Thomas, merchant ; 12, Warren Dutton, attorney ; 13, William Shimmin, merchant ; 14, Thomas Lee, Jr., merchant ; 15, George Bethune, gent. ; 16, George Brinley, gent. ; 17, Dr. Shirley Erving ; 18, Mrs. Maria Ann Beale, boarding-house ; 19, John Lowell, Attorney. There is evidence that John T. Sargent lived in the Row, but he does not appear in the directories.

The occupants of the Row always had the choicest residential situation in Boston for witnessing street parades and festive events on the Common. For until about 1850 most of the Common, with the exception of the Malls around its border, and perhaps the long walk from Joy Street to the corner of Boylston and Tremont Streets, was still without trees, and the view across it embraced a greater distance than at present. There is little doubt that the greatest day the Row ever knew was that on which General Lafayette arrived here for the last time, to experience the homage of a grateful people, August 24, 1824. The military and civic procession that escorted him from the Roxbury line down through the business district had arrived, going south along Tremont Street, in front of Colonnade Row. There a scene took place that touched the hearts of all who saw it. The Boston Courier said next day : "The windows and terraces of Colonnade Row exhibited assemblages of beauty, taste and fashion fully equal, it

was thought, to any specimens that other occasions have produced."

Josiah Quincy, whose statue stands on the City Hall lawn, as mayor of the city, rode in the procession in the carriage with General Lafayette. It is his biographer who describes the incident in Colonnade Row above referred to, as follows :

"Passing through the streets General Lafayette said to Mr. Quincy, 'Pray tell me, is the widow of John Hancock still alive?'

" 'Oh, yes, I've no doubt we shall see her at some window as we pass along,' replied the mayor,

" 'If you see her have the goodness to let me know,' said the General.

"Passing along Tremont Street Mr. Quincy espied Madam Scott, the former Dorothy Hancock, seated in one of the balconies of Colonnade Row.

" 'There is Hancock's widow, General,' said he.

" 'Tell the coachman to draw up opposite this place,' requested the General.

"When the carriage had stopped, Lafayette arose and saluted Madam Scott with a profound bow, which she returned with as courtly a salutation, while the crowd below cheered lustily."

Later Madam Scott had another splendid view of the procession, when the military portion, with the General and his double span of white horses, countermarched at Boylston Street and returned to Park Street and the

State House, along Tremont Street Mall, between two lines of the pupils of the public schools, the girls all in white and the boys in white trousers and blue jackets. It is unfortunate that no Boston newspaper of that time mentioned the Madam Scott incident, because for that reason there is no clue as to which house in the Row she was visiting that day. She must have been a visitor merely, for she was living at that time at No. 4 Federal Street, in the middle of the block now bounded by Federal Court and High Street. She had moved there that year, from 4 Central Court, the site of which is now in the rear of the store of the Jordan, Marsh Company. Having lost two husbands at the old Hancock mansion in Beacon Street she had moved away from there about 1816.

We are indebted to the *Columbian Centinel*, which showed rather more enterprise than its contemporaries in reporting the events of General Lafayette's sojourn here, for the news that after he had been feted all day on the 24th, and had been dined and compelled to make a pretense, at least, of drinking upwards of thirty patriotic toasts during the afternoon, at the Exchange Coffee-House, then occupying the west side of Congress Square, he honored Madam Scott again, in the evening, by paying her his first personal call after his arrival here. The *Centinel* says: "In the evening General Lafayette visited Mrs. Scott, the relict of the deceased Governor Hancock, whose hospitality and esteem the

General had often experienced in the time which tried men's souls. The interview, we are informed, was peculiarly interesting."

No doubt that interview was "peculiarly interesting," for one may easily imagine Madam Hancock-Scott, who preserved a taste for jovial reminiscence as long as she lived, recalling one of her favorite memories of later years, the events of the summer of 1778, when the officers of the French fleet, then in Boston harbor, gave Boston the gayest social season it had ever known. She may naturally have told General Lafayette how she invited thirty officers of the fleet to have breakfast at her Beacon Street mansion, and how one hundred and fifty of them responded quite unexpectedly; how a crowd of mischievous midshipmen in the front yard held up the servants of the household as they tried to enter the house, and took from them all the cake that had been borrowed from the neighbors for breakfast; and how, with a Rooseveltian readiness to meet an emergency, she ordered that all the cows that were grazing on the Common be milked, no matter to whom they belonged, in order that she might be prepared to ask her guests, "Will you have milk in your tea?" She could hardly have neglected to mention that one of the officers drank sixteen cups of tea at one sitting. And the General's dignity must have relaxed a little when she told how she got even with her sportive guests by accepting an invitation from the Admiral to visit the

fleet "with her friends," and then going out to the flagship accompanied by about five hundred other guests, mainly women, who nearly had hysterics when, without previous notice, they received a salute fired simultaneously by the eight hundred guns of the fleet.

The exchange of courtesies between General Lafayette and Madam Scott in front of Colonnade Row resulted in a petition from the residents there to the City Government, asking that the street at that place be named Fayette Place. Why the "La" was omitted from the General's name is a mystery. The petition was denied, yet for the next five years the Row was called Fayette Place in the directories. Meantime the City Fathers showed remarkable alacrity in honoring Lafayette in a more dubious way, for within a year thereafter three public ways had been named for him. Fayette Street was an insignificant thoroughfare leading from Pleasant Street down to the mud flats, Fayette Court, a sort of blind alley off Washington Street, south of Avery Street, for many years gave access to back yards and ash barrels in that region, and Fayette Avenue, a trifle more worthy, was a narrow way running from Endicott to Prince Street. Lapse of time brings its compensations, however, and in 1900 the Mall along which General Lafayette rode in 1824 under the eye of the former Dorothy Hancock was named Lafayette Mall.

Some idea of the interior arrangement of some of the houses in the Row has been derived from Mrs. Fitch Edward Oliver, a grand-daughter of both Amos Lawrence and Jeremiah Mason, who were near neighbors in the Row. She says that Amos Lawrence's house, at the corner of West Street, contained what was probably the first bathroom in Boston, though it was supplied only with cold water. In his back yard was a summer house overgrown with roses. The William Lawrence house, next south, was adapted for entertainments, having the second story devoted to one large parlor. The same was true of the Austin house, now No. 152. The Jeremiah Mason house, No. 155, had on the ground floor two large parlors connected by a doorway with double mahogany doors. A cornice and dado of carved wood was a feature of several of the houses. The parlors were usually on the left of the front door as one entered, a dining room and kitchen in the rear on the right of the hallway.

The Row was at the zenith of its glory between 1830 and 1845, when, owing to the spreading of the city southward, it had ceased to be isolated, and had acquired for environment, blocks of other residences not surpassed even on Beacon Street. During the forties, at least, there was a boarding house near each end of the block, but their patrons being of the gilt-edge variety, it is not likely that anybody's feelings were hurt, by their presence.

The first house in the Row that made way for business was that of Jeremiah Mason, No. 155. It was replaced by a handsome marble building, still standing, that contained Chickering Hall, the Boston Conservatory of Music, and the warerooms of the Mason & Hamlin Organ Company for years. The change came in 1866. Mrs. Amos Lawrence died the next year, and in 1868 the Lawrence heirs erected on the corner an up-to-date office building and store, which was rebuilt in 1910. Both have borne the name of Lawrence Building, and at the front entrance of each was placed a tablet commemorative of the former residence of Amos Lawrence on the spot. One after another the other houses went, till there were few left in 1875. The last to go was that which had been the home of the Bethunes for about sixty years. Most of the departing owners had accepted what they then regarded as tempting offers to sell, though their heirs to-day may well regret that they were deprived of an inheritance now worth from ten to thirty times more than it was then.

A few facts about Charles Bulfinch, designer of Colonnade Row, may be in order, for he was one of the most remarkable men that Boston ever produced, something of the same type as Franklin. He was born in 1763 and died in 1844, was the son of an eminent local physician, and was intended for the same profession himself, but was saved from it by a "finishing off" trip

abroad when he was twenty-one. His visits to London, Paris and Rome, directed his ambition toward architecture, fortunately for his native country, for he originated a fine type of dwellings and public buildings, mistakenly called "Colonial," since they had their beginning after the Colonial period had ended. It is significant that the type is even more popular to-day than in his own time, and as proof of its artistic merit it is enough to say that a contractor and builder to the Royal family of England and to many princes and nobles on the Continent, came to Boston a few years ago, avowedly to study the architecture originated by Bulfinch, with a view to introducing it into England.

Among the surviving works of Bulfinch hereabouts are the Massachusetts General Hospital, the former Congregational, now Catholic Church at the corner of Hanover and Clark Streets, Charlestown State Prison, the spire of the Old North, or Christ Church, in Salem Street, which he rebuilt in 1807, and the older portion of the State House. The Revolutionary monument surmounted by the eagle, in the State House grounds, is a modern reproduction of Bulfinch's first work, the original shaft having been demolished when the top of Beacon Hill was sold in 1811. For ten years he had charge of the rebuilding of the Capitol at Washington, burned by the British in the war of 1812, and it is said that the central portion of the building is practically his creation. Early examples of his work that have passed

away were the first Boston Theatre in Federal Street, the first Cathedral of the Holy Cross at the southeast corner of Franklin and Devonshire Streets, and Crescent Row, or Tontine Block, on the west side of Franklin Place, now Franklin Street. The name Arch Street is in memory of an archway in the middle of the Crescent block of dwellings, through which the street once passed. It is notable that practicably the only difference in the exterior appearance between Crescent Row and the later Colonnade Row, was that the earlier one had a flight of steps leading to the front doors, and was devoid of columns.

Now as to a few of the typical Boston merchants, professional men and "gents.," as the directories designated them, whose rooftrees were in Colonnade Row from fifty to ninety years ago. The histories of many of them were similar, — coming to Boston poor, arriving at a point where the future seemed secure, and then moving from some such region as Chambers, Sudbury, Pearl, High, or Oliver Street, or Washington Place, on top of Fort Hill, to Colonnade Row, in order to pass the autumn of life in an environment of refinement, beauty and culture. It was a favorable time for moving southward and westward during all those years, for business and increasing immigration from abroad were encroaching all the time on the sections of the city that had hitherto been the haunts of the aristocracy. When the seventies arrived, the children of those just referred



COLONNADE ROW ABOUT 1855.

Looking South from West Street. The first house is that of Amos Lawrence.

to were obliged in turn to abandon Colonnade Row for the then cheerless wastes of the Back Bay.

First on the list of famous men of Boston in his day, as merchant prince and philanthropist, was Amos Lawrence, living at the West Street corner of the Row, where the hay scales, or "hay engine," as the town records quaintly call it, had stood for generations before his time. Three houses in the Row were occupied by members of the Lawrence family, one by Amos, the adjoining one by his brother William, and No. 159 by Amos' son and biographer, Dr. William Richards Lawrence.

Amos was grandfather of one of the members of the Bostonian Society, Bishop William Lawrence, of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. There were the usual three brothers who are to be found in all well regulated genealogies. The third brother was Abbott, who lived in the big house now occupied by the Union Club, in Park Street, and who established Lawrence Scientific School at Harvard University. Amos, all his life, took a remarkable interest in school children, often inviting them off-hand to get into his carriage and have a ride with him. He would then give them tracts calculated to benefit them, oftentimes in relation to tobacco, for which he had a great aversion.

One of the Bostonian Society's ever-welcome raconteurs, John A. Remick, recalls the annual entertainment that Mr. Lawrence used to give the pupils of the

Mather School in South Boston, where Mr. Remick attended. He says he used to come to the city-proper for the purpose of attending the auspicious affair, in an hourly coach at an expense of six and one-quarter cents each way. The children were received in the parlor by Mr. Lawrence, who wore his indispensable black silk skull cap as a substitute for the missing hair on top of his head. The juvenile guests were given all the gingerbread they could eat, and as much lemonade as was deemed good for them. Before they left, Mr. Lawrence would give them a little kindly talk of a grandfatherly character, telling them what were the foundations of a successful career.

For years before his death Mr. Lawrence was a semi-invalid, confined nearly all the time to his combined bedroom and study, the rear corner room on the second floor, from which could be seen Mason Street and the length of West Street and Bedford Street, then largely residential streets. Before Mr. Lawrence's invalid days the pretentious place of amusement, Vauxhall Gardens, across the way from his house, a sort of Paragon Park in embryo, had gone the way that all antiquities ultimately go. But it was in active operation upwards of twenty years of the period during which he lived in the Row. One can't help wondering what could have been the attitude of a quiet, conservative, pious man, fond of reading and pondering on the lessons of his Bible, as Mr. Lawrence was, toward the turning of night into

day in the Garden over the way. What did he think of the circus equipage going in and out, to the admiration of crowds of small boys drawn from other sections of the town, to say nothing of the fusilades of musketry, the glare of red-fire and the smoke of battle that gave zest to such military spectacles as "The Battle of Bunker Hill," or "Napoleon Crossing the Alps," the type of dramatic entertainment commonly furnished at the Amphitheatre?

The Lawrences had one advantage over their fellow townsmen on the evening of Lafayette's arrival. It probably cost them nothing to see the exhibition of fireworks, given at Vauxhall, ostensibly for the distinguished guest's entertainment. Others grumbled in letters to the newspapers at the parsimony of the city in allowing places of amusement to have the privilege of taxing the public fifty cents each before they were permitted to watch the General's face while he contemplated his own portrait depicted in fireworks. Mr. Lawrence in his black scull cap and flowered dressing gown was for years a familiar sight at his study window. One room in his house was stocked with clothing to be drawn on whenever a needy case was called to the attention of the family.

William Lawrence, whose house was 150, next south of that of Amos, gave \$40,000 to Lawrence Academy, Groton. He was succeeded in the house, about 1840, by Mrs. Nancy Kimball, called "widow," in the direc-

tories. She kept a sort of "blue-stocking" boarding house, her clients having been men and very likely women of leisure, as well as professional men, some of them lawyers and some notably addicted to dabbling in literature, in one way or another. The earliest known tenant of 150 was Elizabeth Danforth.

James Trecothick Austin, who was one of the earliest to purchase a house in the Row, lived longest at 151, though he had previously been for some years at 155, which he sold to Jeremiah Mason in 1831. He was a brother to young Austin, who was shot by one Selfridge in front of the Old State House in State Street, almost on the spot of the State-Street Massacre of 1770. The affair which was in 1806, created a prodigious sensation, and is still often referred to on account of the high social standing of those involved. Politics, then running high, was said to have been at the bottom of it.

Although James T. Austin was one of three generations of men big enough to be selected by the City to deliver the once important Fourth of July orations, he, his father and his son having each served in that capacity, and though he was an eminent lawyer and Attorney General of the Commonwealth, what fame he now has is due to an excoriation given him in Faneuil Hall in 1837, by Wendell Phillips, who sprang into fame that day by reason of that very speech. The meeting had been called to protest against the murder

of Rev. Edward P. Lovejoy, an abolitionist in Illinois. Austin had arisen in the audience and had inferentially defended the attack by the rioters on Lovejoy; whereupon Phillips, then about twenty-nine years old, arose from the floor and so flayed Austin for his stand, that an audience that had been at the start partly in sympathy with the murder, enthusiastically cheered Phillips and unanimously adopted resolutions denouncing the crime. The names of Phillips and Austin have since been linked together like those of Lincoln and Douglass. Dr. George H. Lyman, father of Collector Lyman, succeeded Mr. Austin at 151.

Jeremiah Mason, who had bought Mr. Austin's first residence, No. 155, ranked as a lawyer with Daniel Webster and Rufus Choate, though he was considered much less of an orator than they. His professional career had been in New Hampshire, and he came to Colonnade Row to pass his last days, because his wife was a sister of Mrs. Amos Lawrence. Mr. Mason was regarded as almost a wonder on account of his height, which was six feet six inches. He is said to have never been sick a day in his long life of eighty years, and he died almost instantly in 1848 of a stroke of apoplexy.

At 156 John Parker, Jr., merchant on Long Wharf, lived many years. He was son of a man whose name is perpetuated by Parker Hill, where he had a summer estate, and by Parker Street. John, Jr., was first

cousin to Mrs. Deacon, the walls of whose French "chateau," built in 1849, still stand, hemmed in by buildings on Washington Street, between West Concord and Worcester Streets. Originally to a considerable extent furnished with furniture and art objects from the Tuileries in Paris, after the French Revolution of 1848, Mrs. Deacon's boudoir was in fact a reproduction of the boudoir of Marie Antoinette at Little Trianon, and containing many articles that had belonged to that unfortunate queen. The now almost-forgotten "chateau" has been at various times in recent years the gathering place of Labor Unions, disciples of various kinds of "New Thought," Socialists and Mormons, as well as the scene of dancing parties to which "a popular admission" is charged.

The older generation of Bostonians still remember the sensation which was created by the auction sale of the Marie Antoinette and other Royal furnishings in 1870. Mrs. Deacon's son shot a French society man in Paris some twenty years ago, on account of a domestic wrong, and her granddaughters have been much before the public in the newspapers in recent years on account of their alleged power to turn the heads of various crown princes and scions of the lesser nobility of Europe.

No. 157 was long the home of Henry Sayles, whose partner, Gardner Brewer, built one of the present brown stone fronts on the site of the famous Hancock mansion

on Beacon Street. Mr. Brewer also gave to the city in 1867 the bronze fountain on the Common, near Park Street, which had been one of the exhibits at the Paris Exposition that year.

Dr. Jacob L. Williams, one of Boston's earliest and most famed dentists, lived many years at 158, beginning before 1850, having succeeded Ann Allen, widow, there.

The office of deputy sheriff was presumably a remunerative one ninety years ago, for Luke Baldwin, who bore that title, is the earliest recorded tenant of No. 159. A successor there was Dr. William R. Lawrence, son and biographer of Amos Lawrence. After him came Jeffrey Richardson, president of the Suffolk Bank, who took pardonable satisfaction in the possession of the only cupola in the Row, from which very likely he had a fine view of the harbor and the islands that dotted it. His son, Dr. William L. Richardson, of Commonwealth Avenue, who lived at 159 in his youth, recalls how hard his father labored to prevent the erection of a gasometer behind his house on the site of the present Boston Theatre, about sixty years ago. He says his father was one of a committee of residents of the Row who voyaged all the way to Philadelphia to see a similar type of gasometer, in order to form an opinion as to the pictorial effect it would have, in close proximity to Colonnade Row. Dr. Richardson also has memories of the long-forgotten riding school of David

R. Disbrow, who once taught society youth and newly fledged militia officers how to appear at ease on horseback. The riding school went, with the advent of the Boston Theatre, in 1854.

David Snow, a rich fish merchant and bank president, was long the occupant of No. 160. His obituary says that he took pride in having been a self-made man of the old and honored type, that his chief joy was in adding to his financial store, and that he was indifferent to the graces and amenities of society.

Thomas A. Goddard, at 161, was a partner of Joseph Iasigi, the founder of that family in Boston. Turkish goods was the line of the firm.

Benjamin F. White, merchant, was for a generation, beginning about 1840, at No. 162, following Thomas K. Thomas, "importer of English goods." The latter seems to have been the earliest recorded "Tom-Tom" in Boston.

General John S. Tyler, whose home was at 163, now the Tremont-Street entrance to Keith's Theatre, was an insurance adjuster and a man of note in his day. He was active in the militia from the time of the War of 1812, in which he served, till 1840, when he retired with the rank of Brigadier General. For many years he was always the chosen chief marshal for every big parade, and he so officiated at the reception to General Lafayette in 1824. As one of the original stockholders of the Boston Theatre he was able to

gratify without expense the taste of his wife and daughter for the play. Their faces were long familiar in the front rows of the Boston Theatre, to habitués of that house, in the palmy days of the drama.

Many persons remember the energetic and vivacious daughter of the General, Miss Lucinda Tyler, who was successively Mrs. George Cutter and Mrs. Samuel D. Crane. It was one of her pleasures to minister to the comfort of marchers in some of the processions that went by her father's house, particularly if the parade were a military one; and it is said that sometimes the beneficiaries were treated to the choicest brands of liquid refreshment at her hands. It is told of her that she gave Lawrence Barrett, the actor, his military equipment when he went to the Civil War as Captain of a company. He had previously been leading man at the Boston Museum. After the war he became a well-known tragedian. There is a story of Miss Tyler being at Revere Beach with her father, and of her suddenly jumping out of the carriage, rushing into the water and rescuing a man from drowning, for which act of gallantry she received a Humane Society medal of which she was always very proud. Another story is of one of the "borders," above the stage in the Boston Theatre, taking fire one evening, and of Miss Tyler, who was close to the orchestra rail, perceiving the blaze and with remarkable self-possession giving the stage hands directions as to the best way of extinguishing it.

The once well-known second hand book dealer, Theophilus Oliver Hazard Perry Burnham, (whose antique bookstore travelled in the course of about one hundred years from its starting place in Cornhill, to School Street, and then to the basement of the Old South Meeting House), bought the Tyler house after the death of the General, and he still owned it at the time of his death, a little more than twenty years ago, but he never lived in it. Forty years ago, a then aged Bostonian said that Mr. Burnham's father, who was the founder of the bookstore, was the last man in Boston who habitually wore the costume of the revolutionary period.

Successive occupants of the house No. 164 were Mrs. Susanna Williams and Dr. John C. Hayden. Mrs. Williams was the widow of Thomas Williams, who had long lived at 151. She removed about 1835 to No. 164.

The first recorded tenant of No. 165 was Thomas Lee, Jr., merchant, who was an uncle of the late Col. Henry Lee, an early member of the banking firm of Lee, Higginson & Co., and active patriot during the Civil War. It is related in the Memoir of Col. Henry Lee that he obtained Music Hall for Theodore Parker's Sunday Services, by ridiculing the conservative spirit of the proprietors who opposed it, among whom was the Colonel's uncle, Thomas Lee, Jr.

John K. Porter, the father of Alexander S. Porter, a valued member of the Bostonian Society, and long

a power in local real estate circles dwelt for ten years or more, ending about 1860, at No. 165. Previous occupants had been John Borland and James Lloyd, the latter perhaps a son of the former United States Senator of that name, from this State, with whom, on Somerset Street, Lafayette sojourned for some time, after he had ceased to be a guest of the city in 1824. Alexander S. Porter cites as a new connection between General Lafayette and Colonnade Row, that his mother, who was a New Yorker, danced with the General in that city, long before her marriage.

Mr. Porter remembers that the window glass in the Row took on the same purple tinge that characterized much of the glass in old Beacon Street houses, a tinge that was long regarded as a very mysterious thing. "It seemed as if the glass reflected the rays of the setting sun from behind the Brookline Hills, as one contemplated the tint of the panes," says Mr. Porter. Thomas Gaffield, many years an expert in the local glass trade, demonstrated many years ago, by experiment, that the singular purple hue of some of the old Boston window panes was due to the action of the sun on a glass that had too much oxide of manganese in its composition.

No more picturesque and interesting character inhabited the Row in later years than Dr. George Amory Bethune, whose house, No. 166, was the last of the nineteen to be abandoned to business. Dr. Bethune

and his brother, both bachelors all their lives, succeeded their father in the ownership of the house. The brothers were grandsons of Mary Faneuil, a niece of Peter Faneuil, who gave Faneuil Hall to the town of Boston. Benjamin Faneuil, the last of the family who bore that name, was buried from the home of Dr. Bethune's grandfather, at the south corner of Summer and Washington Streets, which was long known as Bethune's Corner.

Dr. Bethune's father is said to have entertained, on that corner, Louis Philippe, Duke of Orleans, exiled during the French Revolution, and for some time resident in Boston. And Mr. Bethune is said to have been in turn entertained at the Tuileries, forty years afterward, when his former guest had become King of the French. That experience of the elder Bethune suggests a question: Why may he not have visited more than once Mrs. Deacon, the cousin of his Colonnade Row neighbor, John Parker, Jr., at her South End "chateau," and there have seen some of the same rich furnishings that he had admired a decade earlier, when a guest of the King of France at the Tuileries? Erving Winslow says that when a boy he saw, more than once, the elder Bethune and his wife, with a basket, before the dew was off the grass, gathering mushrooms, — one would never guess where, — on Boston Common, on low ground near the shore of the bay, since become the baseball field.

There is an attractive bit of romance attached to the ancestry of the Bethunes. Though the name was originally Bethune, it is said to have been for generations corrupted into Beaton, in Scotland, where an early French ancestor settled during the reign of Mary Stuart's grandfather. An interesting member of the family was Mary Beaton, one of the four famed maids of honor of Queen Mary Stuart, who were known as the Queen's Maries, and are thus referred to in Sir Walter Scott's *Border Minstrelsy* :

"Last night the Queen had four Maries,
To-night she has but three;
There was Mary Beaton and Mary Seaton,
And Mary Carmichael and me."

Dr. Bethune's great-grandfather, the Scottish immigrant in this country, is said to have dropped the name Beaton, for the earlier one, Bethune, when he came here.

Dr. Bethune was a Harvard graduate, of the class of 1831, which contained also Wendell Phillips and John Lothrop Motley, the historian. He became an oculist and was connected with the Eye and Ear Infirmary for years. He was a founder of the Somerset Club, in 1852, was all his life a keen sportsman, and more than fifty years ago he used to go with Patrick Grant, father of Judge Grant, to remote regions of Canada, then little known, in search of big game. There are many Bos-

tonians who remember Dr. Bethune in his conspicuous English hunting costume, which he wore habitually on his daily walks across the Common, out over the Mill-Dam, and homeward through Brookline and Roxbury. He was always accompanied by two hunting dogs, running along beside him or in front of him, and he never was without a large English dog-whip under his arm. Some say he never was seen out of doors with any other companionship than that of his dogs.

The doctor was a gourmet and an art lover, but all his life he had a taste for solitude, and it was not inappropriate that at the age of seventy-four, in 1886, he passed away in solitude, being found dead in bed one morning. He had filled his house with rare paintings and bric-a-brac, which were sold at auction after his death, only the twenty-seven heirs being allowed to bid for them. A silver castor that had belonged to Peter Faneuil sold for \$1,000. Four of his paintings, one of them by Greuze and another by Gerome, are now in the Museum of Fine Arts. His house was sold for business purposes a year after his death, and with its passing away the history of Colonnade Row was ended.

No. 167 brings to mind the once distinguished Brinley family, one of the later representatives of which, George Brinley, lived there many years. The family was originally from Newport, so far as its American history is concerned, but a much earlier ancestor was

Auditor General of the Finances of King Charles I. Impoverished by his adhesion to the King during the Cromwellian regime, he had little to hold out to his sons for the future, and some of them came to this country. The Brinley arms, once carved on a tablet attached to the family tomb in King's Chapel Burying Ground, is said to have disappeared generations ago. An earlier tenant than Mr. Brinley at 167 was Edmund Kimball, lawyer, who was there in the early twenties.

Mrs. Anna Lloyd, probably a near connection of the former United States Senator James Lloyd, as her name occurs in his will, lived at 167 at a later period than George Brinley. Her successor there was Bishop Manton Eastburn of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, during many years beginning in 1843. His wife was a Miss Head, of the once influential family of that name which had an estate comprised of a mansion and garden about where Masonic Temple stands, corner of Tremont Street and Boylston Street. The only souvenir of the family to-day is found in the name of Head Place, which runs from Boylston Street to the stage door of the Tremont Theatre, and from thence westerly to Tremont Street. From Erving Winslow's store of boyhood reminiscences comes one of having often seen the Bishop, through his parlor window, distracted by a domestic affliction from which he long suffered, pacing back and forth like Napoleon at St. Helena, or like the Hancock who succeeded John of Revolutionary celebrity

in the Hancock mansion in Beacon Street. But Mr. Winslow says that the Hancock form of daily evening exercise was a multiplicity of short walks, back and forth, the length of his front doorstep.

At No. 168 Dr. Shirley Erving was early domiciled. Mrs. Charles Sumner Hamlin is said to be one of his collateral descendants. A successor of Dr. Erving in that house was universally known in his lifetime as "Tommy" Thompson, though it is presumable that his actual name was Thomas. He was a very rich man, who died about fifty years ago, providing by will generously for various charities. His final abode is within sight of his former attractive home in Colonnade Row, for he lies in the northeast corner of the burial ground on the Common, his monument, a column surmounted by a dove, being the most conspicuous memorial within that enclosure. The name Thomas Thompson, probably then borne by his father, appears on a view of Tremont Street in 1800, as the occupant of an ancient house next north of the site of the present St. Paul's Church.

No. 169 was once a boarding house patronized by bankers, brokers, or men of independent means who were fond of good living and able to pay for it. This was way back seventy years or more ago. The head of the house was Mrs. Maria Ann Beale, a widow, as practically all boarding house keepers appear to have been in olden times. At a later period the same house

was the home of Benjamin Gorham, a lawyer of high reputation and reputed wealth.

No. 170, the nineteenth and last house in the Row, was successively the abode of at least three men who were widely known in their day. John Lowell, James Bowdoin Bradlee and Dr. Samuel Parkman. John Lowell, the son of a highly respected judge about the time of the Revolution and afterward, was the uncle of the poet, James Russell Lowell. He was a hot politician during the War of 1812, when he published fiery letters under the title "Boston Rebels." He was a founder of the Boston Athenaeum, the Massachusetts General Hospital, and other beneficent institutions. His son, also John Lowell, who founded the Lowell Institute Lectures, seventy-five years ago, presumably passed his youth in this house.

The foregoing notices cover all the houses of the real Colonnade Row, but as there were several men of note having houses south of Mason Street, and who claimed residence in the Row and were popularly credited with belonging to it, it is worth while to devote a little space to them.

Judge Peleg Sprague of the United States District Court, who was long resident at 171, where the Herald building now stands, is best remembered in some quarters to-day for a curious habit he had of always walking along the street with a closed umbrella held upright alongside his nose, to protect his eyes from the glare of

the sun. It is said to have been his daily practice all the year around when the sky was clear.

At an early period Misses Susan and Elizabeth Inches were at 172. In later years Dr. Herman B. Inches was proprietor and occupant. The house was the last one south of Mason Street and north of Boylston Street to be given up to business. The change took place about 1890.

At 173 was Joseph Warren Revere, whose residence there covered very many years. He was the favorite son of his father, Paul Revere, whom he strongly resembled, and with whom he was in business in his early life. He was named for that ardent and unselfish patriot, Dr. Joseph Warren, who gave up his life unnecessarily at Bunker Hill, and who on the night of the 18th of April, 1775, sent Paul Revere on the flying trip to Lexington that was to bring him immortal fame. Joseph Warren Revere, who made a fortune as a bell-founder and copper manufacturer, is remembered by many present-day Bostonians for his dignified, old school manners; for he died as late as 1868, at the age of ninety-two years. Like his father he was a staunch patriot, and the chief sorrow of his life came in his last years, in the loss of two promising sons, Colonel Paul and Dr. Edward H. R. Revere, who gave up their lives for the preservation of the Union in 1863.

No. 174 has a claim to special mention because it was long the home of Haliburton Fales, described by

one who knew him as "of the same tribe" as that delightful humorist, Judge T. C. Haliburton of Nova Scotia, the author of "Sam Slick, the Clock-Maker," about eighty years ago. Someone else believes that Mrs. Fales was Judge Haliburton's daughter. Now the Judge is entitled to the permanent affection of Americans, because about sixty years ago, at dinner, he communicated to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow some of the recollections of his mother, who belonged in the Annapolis Valley, in Nova Scotia, in connection with the expulsion of the Acadians from Grand Pré. The Judge suggested that Longfellow incorporate those reminiscences in a poem, and Longfellow did so, calling it "Evangeline," thus producing one of his most touching tales, and one that has delighted much more than the English-speaking world.

In the early days of the Chickering Piano Company, its founder, Jonas Chickering, lived at No. 176,* only a few doors south of the present attractive headquarters of the venerable concern. Mr. Chickering has been credited with being the first American manufacturer of high grade pianos, and with having invented most of the features that are to-day essentials in all the best pianos. He died in 1853, while the present factory of the firm, far out on Tremont Street, was being built. The pre-

* The former sites of Nos. 172, 173 and 174 have recently been incorporated into the Avery Street extension to Tremont Street.

vious year a fire that was long remembered by Bostonians for its terrible intensity had destroyed the Chickering factory on Washington Street, at the corner of Chickering Place, and opposite Avery Street.

The vagaries indulged in by those who were responsible for the early numbering of the houses in Colonnade Row are worth a moment's attention. Until 1821 there were no numbers, all tenants in the Row being vaguely referred to in the directories as living on Common Street, as Tremont Street was then called. For the next four years they were in Colonnade Row, the houses being numbered from West Street, southward. During the five years succeeding Lafayette's visit, the block was called Fayette Place, with the same numbering as before; then there was a period during which Colonnade Row was revived, but with the house numbers beginning at the southerly end of the Row and running northward, then came a system of numbering under the designation of Tremont Street, but running northward instead of southward; No. 1, being probably south of Hollis Street. That method gave place about 1850 to the one still in use.

Practically all the dwellers in Colonnade Row were of good old New England stock. Some of them had inherited wealth, others had achieved it by means of their talents and industry. Not a few of them acquired literary distinction at a time when literature was in its infancy in this country. They thus became instrumental

in winning for Boston its proud title, "The Athens of America."

A list of men who at one time or another, during fifty years, had intimate social relations with residents of the Row, would contain not only the names of many local authors, poets and historians whose works have rendered them immortal, but also those of great statesmen, conspicuous among whom were Rufus Choate and Daniel Webster. Mr. Webster in the days of his greatest fame had not less than four intimate friends living in the Row, namely, Jeremiah Mason, Benjamin Rich, Judge Peleg Sprague and Benjamin Gorham. Mr. Gorham enjoyed with Mr. Webster that unique intimacy which naturally results from companionship on many fishing trips.

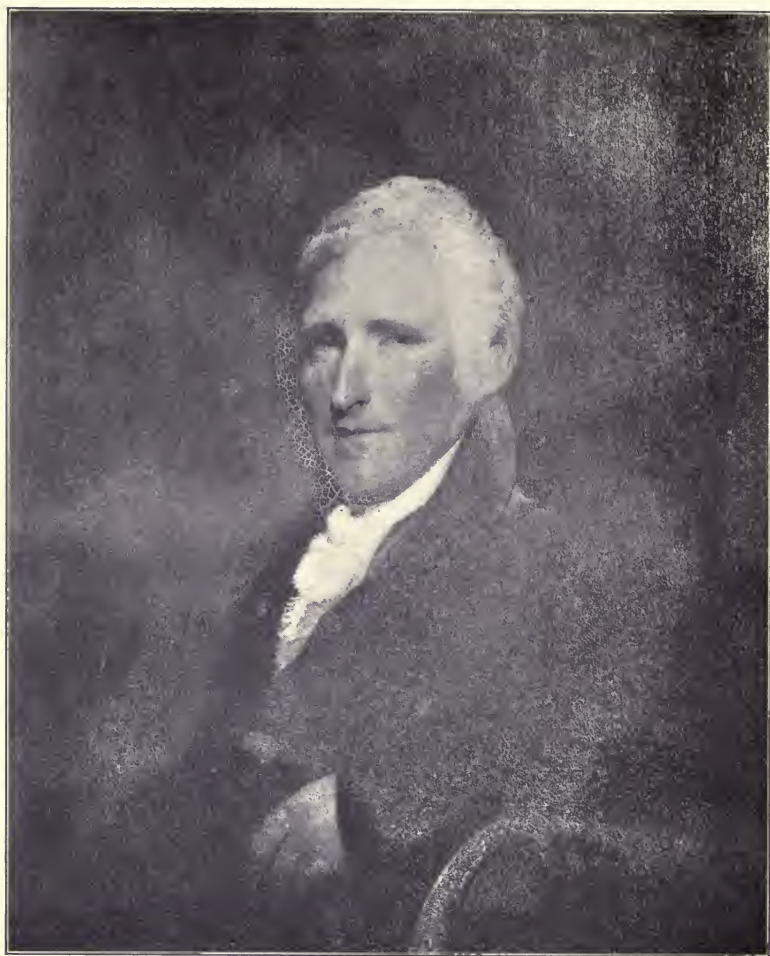
Probably within twenty years the last of the erstwhile residents of the Row will have passed away, but the story of the picturesque old block and its associations is not likely to be forgotten as long as interest in the history of the city itself survives.



BENJAMIN BUSSEY

BY

ALEXANDER S. PORTER




Benjamin Busby



BENJAMIN BUSSEY

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE BOSTONIAN SOCIETY, IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, AT A MEETING HELD MAY 20, 1913, BY

ALEXANDER S. PORTER

S we look down through the long vista of time, there are probably not many names more familiar to this community than that of Benjamin Bussey; and while we often hear his name mentioned and are ever reminded of his benefactions, few people know of his antecedents, or of the character of this remarkable man, who, though born in poverty, was destined to fulfill his desires and to be able to leave an honored name, and an endowment that would be an everlasting benefit to coming generations.

Who was this man? Who was Benjamin Bussey and how did he become possessed of that great estate at West Roxbury, so familiar to us all, known as the "Bussey Farm," "Bussey Woods," or the "Bussey

Institute ;" that great domain that he acquired little by little, that he might not only enjoy its occupancy during his life, but that at his death, he could bequeath it to Harvard College for the benefit of posterity ? It was not only his large estate at West Roxbury that he left to the College, but a large number of properties in the old business centre of the city and various properties in the then residential part of the town, but which have long since become a new business centre and which are now some of the most valuable estates, when rated by the square foot, that we have. Of these I will speak later.

I have been familiar with the Bussey Farm nearly all my life. As far back as 1849, I recall many happy hours there. A coterie of boys used to go out every Spring on some holiday to play "Indian." An omnibus to Jamaica Plain went every hour. We got out at the Square where the Soldiers' Monument now is, and then ran all the way to Bussey Woods. These were quite apart from the mansion and we had the field to ourselves. Our fights were terrific and at times became so realistic that many times I came very near being scalped.

I became so fond of that region that it used to be my favorite objective point in an afternoon drive.

There is no region in the immediate vicinity of Boston, more beautiful or more enticing than that lying just west of Jamaica Pond, and although some of the estates

have been cut up and built upon, this vast area is still one of enchanting beauty.

How well we remember those fine estates on the border of Jamaica Pond, — those of Quincy A. Shaw, Edward Perkins, Francis Parkman; the fine estates of Messrs. William B. Bacon, Eben Bacon and Francis V. Balch, and those, lying still farther to the westward, of Ingersoll Bowditch and his sons, John James Dixwell, the Slocum Estate, and still farther on, those great stretches of land more recently acquired by Mrs. Edward D. Brandegee and Mrs. Lars Anderson and the heirs of William G. Weld.

Boston has always been renowned for the beauty of its suburbs, but this region, stretching out to West Roxbury, including the Bussey place, the Weld Farm and the Country Club Region, taking in the estates of Theodore Lyman, Walter C. Cabot, Augustus Lowell, Louis Cabot, Henry Lee and others, is unsurpassed.

Lying just southwest of the Bussey Estate, is the famous "Weld Farm," comprising some 345 acres, a charming stretch of country, founded in 1641 by Captain Joseph Weld, years before Mr. Bussey began his purchases. It is probably the only estate in that neighborhood that has remained in one family for so long a time, having been handed down from generation to generation.

We all of us remember the products of that farm and those luscious golden russet apples, and we also

remember well that delicious Weld Farm cider, — some of us too well perhaps — but the city has spread out now so rapidly, that at last it has succumbed to the inevitable, and a portion of it has been set off and is now being sold in house lots. In the course of time a new community will be founded, new streets will be laid out and those that once knew it will know it no more. But the past is at least secure, and no matter what may come in the future, we can never forget its pristine glory.

Benjamin Bussey was born in that part of Stoughton, now included in Canton in the County of Norfolk, in this State, March 1st, 1757. His father, Benjamin Bussey, was the son of an English farmer, but was born in Canton. The subject of this notice* was blessed with religious, industrious and energetic parents. His mother was a daughter of Deacon Joseph Hartwell of Stoughton. Besides the mother of Mr. Bussey, one daughter was the wife of the celebrated Roger Sherman, and the third was the wife of Mr. Ingraham, a grandson of whom was the Hon. Ruel Williams, Senator of the United States from Maine.

For several years after his birth, Mr. Bussey resided with his maternal grandfather. His father was a master mariner, and often absent at sea; but abandoned that

* From the "Boston Daily Advertiser," of February 10, 1842.

employment in 1763, purchased an estate in Canton, and became a country merchant. Mr. Bussey's mother died of the small-pox at the age of thirty-nine. His father afterwards married again and lived to be eighty years old, but had no child by the second marriage. His widow died at an advanced age A. D. 1839, in Canton, where she had been supported and supplied by Mr. Bussey with every comfort for many years.

After Mr. Bussey's father purchased his estate in Canton, his son Benjamin resided with him constantly, attending school during several winters and afterwards devoting his time partly to business in his father's store and partly to the cultivation of his farm.

At the commencement of the Revolution, Mr. Bussey was about eighteen years old, and his father then gave him the residue of his minority and relinquished all interest in his future earnings. He immediately joined a military company, whose first enterprise was the seizure of the cattle and sheep on the Islands in Boston Harbor, for the use of the Patriots. In 1776 Mr. Bussey had the small-pox severely. After his restoration to health, he enlisted as a private soldier in the Company of Captain Stow, and went to Ticonderoga, where his talents and good conduct were soon rewarded by the office of quarter-master of a regiment at the early age of nineteen. The term of his enlistment expiring in 1776, he returned home and remained there until the next year, when he was appointed quarter-

master in Colonel Gill's regiment and joined the troops who marched to arrest the progress of General Burgoyne. His regiment formed a part of General Warner's brigade which was assembled near Skeenesboro and was included in the division of Major General Lincoln.

Mr. Bussey was in the battles of Saratoga and Bemus Heights and was present at the surrender of General Burgoyne. Soon afterwards he returned home and there passed the winter of 1777 and 1778, which he always regarded as lost time, — saying that in the army he had acquired habits of idleness and expense in which he then indulged. But this state of things could not endure long with one of his character and temperament. He saw other young men actively employed and it was not in his nature quietly to see others doing more or doing better than himself.

In the Spring of 1778 he resolved to go into business but he had no capital. His father had lost much of his small property by bad debts and by a bad currency during the Revolution, and could not give his son much assistance. He gave him a very small amount of paper money, accompanied with advice to be always diligent, to spend less than he earned and never to deceive or disappoint anyone.

From his Grandfather Hartwell he obtained fifty dollars in silver. He then concluded an arrangement in business with a Prussian, who had come to this

country with the Hessian troops and was a skilfull silversmith. Having purchased the necessary tools, he had only ten dollars left as his whole capital and owed fifty dollars borrowed money.

But he possessed an iron constitution, principles of strict integrity and a spirit of perseverance, which nothing could subdue or tire. In one year he made himself acquainted with all the details of his business as a working silversmith; he had acquired some capital, and his success had been equal to his expectations. Articles of gold and silver wrought by his own hands may be seen in and near Boston. In two years he purchased the estate on which was his store and he owned this property at his decease. For a long time it has been occupied by a widow to whom he gave the use of it for her life.

August 24, 1780, he married Miss Judith Gay of Dedham, with whom he lived happily until his decease. This connection was most fortunate; nowhere could he have found one more prudent, industrious and attentive to his interests, than the lady to whom he thus allied himself and his fortune. After marriage he did not neglect his business nor squander his earnings in costly furniture, nor indulge in idle expenses, but he and his wife continued in the same habits of thrift and industry which he had previously practised.

He soon dissolved his connections with the Prussian, but continued in the business of a silversmith, and added

to his stock many of the articles usually found in the store of a country trader.

He remained in Dedham till the year 1792 ; during the last ten years he had been very successful. His stock of goods was large, and he owed very little as his dealings were generally for cash or in barter. He very seldom gave or took credit.

He supplied many traders in Providence, Newport and other places with most of their goods. He was just and liberal in his dealings, and was never accused of oppressing a debtor. To show the skill and enterprise with which he conducted his affairs, we may mention that at the end of each business season, while he was in Dedham, he was in the habit of intrusting to his agents most of his stock then remaining unsold, which they would carry to distant places and there retail at private sale for cash. Thus he was never troubled with an old stock of goods. He also purchased large numbers of furs, shipped them to England and received the proceeds in merchandise which he afterwards sold in Dedham.

In the year 1792 he removed to Boston and opened a store in State Street. Here his course was marked by the same industry, economy, vigilance and integrity as at Dedham. There was no merchant whose credit stood higher. His business rapidly increased ; he became deeply concerned in commerce, dealt largely with England, France and Holland, owned several large vessels

and was engaged in heavy and distant mercantile adventures. But they were all legitimate business transactions.

He never was a speculator and he always regarded the character of one with contempt. He continued to be an active merchant in Boston for about fourteen years, when ill health compelled him to retire from business.

He purchased a part of his beautiful estate in Roxbury in the year 1806, and made large additions to it afterwards. There he built his mansion house about the year 1815 in which he resided until his decease.

Being a man of active mind and habits, he could not be idle. After he ceased to be a merchant, he became a farmer and a manufacturer. His farm is one of the best in the State and contains more than three hundred acres of excellent land.

He established extensive woolen factories in Dedham, in which some of the most important improvements for that department of manufacturing were first invented and used. He owned a large property in different parts of the State of Maine, where his liberality and his numerous benefactions will long be remembered.

Mr. Bussey was a gentleman of the old school : dignified, courteous and hospitable. No honest man who approached him had reason to say he was proud and overbearing. He was kind to everyone. He neither spoke ill of others nor received any satisfaction in

listening to slander. He harbored no envy or malignant feeling.

There was not a human being who ever injured him by word or deed, who could provoke him to seek revenge or whom he would not serve if he had opportunity.

In religion he was a Unitarian, but he had a catholic spirit and was liberal to all sects, holding that every man is accountable in his religious opinions to God alone. It would not be easy to name a sect to which he has not given evidence of his munificence. He deemed religion so essential to the welfare of man and the well-being of society that he often said that every religious society should be encouraged, for any religion was better than none.

He was a man of quick observation, rapid decision, sound judgment and great perseverance ; frank and high minded, he could not endure falsehood, deception or meanness in others.

He had a right view of the true uses of property. He did not look upon it as his to hoard. He regarded it merely as a Trust property and himself as heaven's almoner bound to dispose of it wisely for the good of God's creatures and accountable at His bar for the disposition he might make of it.

In his youth the means of acquiring education in our common schools were small ; but by diligent reading and by always keeping good society, he became familiar with history, biography, polemical learning, the prin-

ciples of agriculture and the history and principles of commerce and manufacturing.

After he retired to the country his health was almost uniformly good. He was not confined to his house by his last illness more than six weeks and he expired with little pain January 13th, 1842. Had he lived to the first day of March he would then have completed his eighty-fifth year. He died with Christian firmness and resignation. A few days before his decease, he said to a friend that God had ever ordered all things wisely and kindly for him and he could suit to be so even then.

Mr. Bussey had several children, but none of them survived him. He left a widow and one grandchild and several great-grandchildren. His disposition of his large estate places him among the greatest benefactors of Harvard University, of its schools of divinity and law, and will cause him to be remembered with gratitude and respect by every farmer in the United States.

After making ample provision for his family, he says in a statement that the objects in his will are as follows : —

“ Before proceeding to make a further disposition of my property* and estate, I think it will tend to elucidate and explain the several devises and dispositions

* From the Will of Benjamin Bussey of Roxbury, dated July 30th, 1835.

thereof that are hereinafter made, to state that in making this will I have two objects chiefly in view. My primary object has been to provide in the best and most secure manner in my power, a comfortable and respectable living after my decease for my family, viz. : — My wife, if she shall outlive me, and my daughter and her children now living and to make some provision for the grandchildren.

“My second object has been to benefit my fellow citizens and posterity according to my ability by devoting ultimately a large portion of my fortune to promote those branches of education which I deem most important and best calculated to advance the prosperity and happiness of our common country. I have always felt a particular desire to increase the usefulness of the schools of law and theology at Harvard College in Cambridge. In a nation whose government is held to be a government of laws, I deem it important to promote that branch of education which lies at the foundation of a wise legislation and which tends to ensure a pure and uniform administration of justice ; and I consider that any country whose laws extend equal protection to all religious opinions, that education which tends to discriminate just and rational views on religious subjects, is entitled to special patronage and support. With these purposes in view, I do hereby devise and bequeath to seven trustees, viz. : — John R. Adams, Esq., George H. Kuhn, merchant, both of Boston ;

Francis C. Head of Roxbury, merchant, my executors, together with John Quincy Adams, late President of the United States ; Samuel P. P. Fay, Esq., of Cambridge ; John C. Dexter and Nathaniel G. Snelling, Esq., both of said Boston, or to such of them as shall accept this trust. Of my property and estate whatsoever, real, personal and mixed in the States of Massachusetts and Maine and wherever else situated and however described, excepting what is herein specifically devised and appropriated and, excepting what shall be sold and disposed of by my executors for the payment of my just debts, legacies and the charges on my estate. . . .

“Through the goodness of Divine Providence, I have lived to an advanced age and have witnessed many and great changes with regard to property—which with the uncertainty attending the investment of money, have brought me to a well founded opinion, as I believe that good real estate in the City of Boston and its vicinity will prove the safest and most durable property from which to raise a permanent fund for the accomplishment of the purpose of my will. I do therefore order and direct that my real estate on Summer Street : my two houses and land in Franklin Place : my five stores and land in Broad Street : my three stores and land in India Street, Milk Street and Batterymarch Street, all in said Boston : my real estate in Roxbury where I now live and all my real estate in Dedham,

excepting my mills, manufacturing establishments, etc., be not sold or alienated, but reserved for the purposes of this will.

“And after the decease of my wife, as soon as sufficient funds can be obtained from time to time from my land in the State of Maine, without any sacrifice thereof or from funds (hereby specially appropriated) to erect new houses on my said estate on Summer Street in said Boston. I hereby request, authorize and direct my said trustees to cause such houses with suitable out-buildings and appurtenances to be built thereon.

“By taking down the present houses and buildings on said estate in Summer Street (which my trustees are authorized to do) there will be sufficient room to build and complete four handsome houses and their appurtenances on said estate fronting on said street: and six houses of a convenient or smaller size in the rear. I desire that the fronts of the said houses on Summer Street may be built of the best hammered granite: and the rear of unhewn stone and my trustees will set off for the accommodation of each of said houses as much of said land for yards and other purposes as they may deem requisite.

“One of my chief objects in the erection of said houses is to provide, as soon as conveniently may be, after the decease of my wife, suitable places of residence for those of my family for whose use and benefit I have hereinafter devised the same. . . .”

The will provides that after payment of all legacies and annuities the residue of the property is to be conveyed to Harvard College.

“I do hereby further declare: that all real and personal property and estate so conveyed, transferred and delivered to the President and Fellows of Harvard College, shall stand charged and chargeable with the said annuities and payments, if not paid or provided for, and shall be taken and held by said President and Fellows of Harvard College as a permanent, public corporate body, specially charged with the care and superintendence of the higher branches of education, upon the trust and confidence that they will manage and invest the same to the best advantage: that they will retain the estate on which I now live in said Roxbury, called ‘Woodland Hill’ consisting of over two hundred (200) acres of land, as a place in my judgment well adapted, from the great variety and excellence of its soil: its hills, valleys and water: its great diversity of surface and exposure and, lastly, its high state of cultivation and improvement, for all the objects contemplated. That they will establish there a course of instruction in practical agriculture, in useful and ornamental gardening, in botany, and in such other branches of natural science, as may tend to promote a knowledge of practical agriculture and the various arts subservient thereto and connected therewith, and cause such courses of lectures

to be delivered there, at such seasons of the year, and under such regulations as they may think best adapted to promote the ends designed, and also to furnish gratuitous aid, if they shall think it expedient, to such meritorious persons as may resort there for instruction: the institution so established shall be called the 'Bussey Institution.'

"There are two tracts of land adjoining my said estate called 'Woodland Hill' which if purchased on reasonable terms would, in my opinion, be highly advantageous to the above mentioned agricultural and horticultural institution.

"One of the said two tracts of land bounded westerly by my estate called 'Woodland Hill,' is part of the estate of the late Mr. Thomas Weld, deceased, and is said to be owned by two of his grandchildren. It is estimated to contain about fifteen (15) acres. The other of said two tracts of land lies South West of my said estate called 'Woodland Hill' and belongs to the estate of the late Mr. Whitney of said Roxbury: it contains about sixty (60) acres and upon it — a large house, barn and out-buildings.

"I hereby authorize and earnestly request my trustees: the survivor and survivors of them to purchase the same or so much thereof as they can, on such terms as they may deem reasonable: and it is my will that the two last mentioned tracts or so much thereof as shall be purchased as aforesaid and the income and profits there-

of shall be subject to the same trustees, limitations and provisions as are herein expressed and contained, concerning my estate called 'Woodland Hill.'

"And being desirous that every proper accommodation should be secured for the officers and pupils of said institution, I hereby order and direct my Trustees, as soon as they shall deem it expedient and consistent with the state of the trust funds, to cause to be erected on the 'Plain-field' so called, next easterly of my farm garden, and bounded south-easterly on the road running from said 'Woodland Hill' to Boston, an edifice, with convenient out-buildings, suitable in all respects for said institution: the said edifice to be not less than ten (10) rods from said road: the exterior walls thereof to be built of stone in blocks (not hammered) or to be similar to the front wall of the 'Masonic Temple,' so called, in said Boston, and I earnestly enjoin it upon my trustees to have the said edifice constructed and completed, with a proper regard to durability and beauty, and so as best to secure the comfort and convenience of the inmates of said building."

On July 13, 1798, Mr. Bussey acquired property at the corner of Arch Street, then No. 5 Summer Street; running about 112 feet on Summer Street, and about 263 feet on Arch Street and the passageway in the rear. This was his home for about fifteen years. It was conveyed after his decease by his estate to Andrew Marsh,

on October 29, 1842, for a consideration of \$58,337.62. The land alone is now assessed at \$494,000.

A parcel with brick warehouse about 20 feet front and about 42 feet deep on the south side of State Street, between Kilby and Broad Streets, about where the Fiske Building at No. 89 State Street now stands, he bought from Susanna Boutineau and Harrison Gray Otis for £500 and £610 (\$5,405), on June 8, 1803; and sold it to Uriah Cotting, December 1, 1804, for \$7,000. It was turned over to the Broad Street Association September 18, 1805. The land is now assessed at \$81 per foot.

A lot on the south side of Franklin Place, which is now 57 Franklin Street, through to a passageway in the rear, about 27 by 100 feet, and a brick house, were acquired by Mr. Bussey June 13, 1803, for a consideration of \$3,000 from John T. Apthorp. This property, together with the property now numbered 63 Franklin Street (about 27 by 100 feet), which was acquired by the trustees of Bussey's will about April 26, 1858, was transferred to Harvard College in compliance with the will April 30, 1861. The land alone is now assessed at \$79 per foot.

July 14, 1803, Mr. Bussey bought property near what is now Mill Creek Square, consisting of a lot about 57 by 58 feet and a brick house and wooden store standing thereon. He paid \$10,000 for these and took title from John Lowell, Edward Stoddard, *et al.* July 8, 1824, the

City of Boston took this parcel and paid him \$12,500 for it.

He bought from the Broad Street Association, September 5, 1805, two lots (about 1,300 feet) on the north side of Central Street (then known as a passageway down Central Wharf), near the corner of Broad Street, where the Marshall Building now stands, paying about \$7,500. He resold to Benjamin Rich *et al.*, for \$8,000, July 8, 1806. The land is assessed now at \$39 per foot.

September 5, 1805, he received from the Broad Street Association a lot on the north side of Milk Street, next to the corner of Broad Street (about 20 by 40 feet). This parcel is where 118 or 120 Milk Street now is. He paid approximately \$1,600 for this lot and disposed of it July 15, 1815, to Uriah Cotting for \$2,000. The land alone is assessed in 1914 at \$33 per foot.

By way of a partition of lands between Cotting, Otis and Bussey, of property taken by them from the Broad Street Association as tenants in common, Bussey received conveyance of a lot about where No. 153 Milk Street now is; approximately 20 by 40 feet. This property went by his will April 30, 1861, to Harvard College. The land alone is assessed now at \$60 per foot.

On August 30, 1806, for consideration of about \$2,100, he acquired from the Broad Street Association a lot about 20 by 40 feet, where the building numbered 36 Batterymarch Street now stands. This land was

sold and again acquired by Mr. Bussey, and was among the properties finally turned over by the Trustees of Mr. Bussey's will to Harvard College, on April 30, 1861. The land alone is assessed in 1914 at \$19,400.

From the partition between Cotting, Otis and Bussey, October 9, 1806, Mr. Bussey obtained title to property located at what is now No. 63 Broad Street (about 22 by 40 feet). This together with a property in the rear of it, acquired about the same time from the Broad Street Association, containing about 1,200 feet, was left to Harvard College with other properties. The land at 63 Broad Street, is assessed now as 1,008 feet, at \$43,300.

August 30, 1806, the Broad Street Association conveyed to Bussey a parcel of land, about 40 by 40 feet, on what is now the northwesterly corner of Water and Broad Streets. This property together with a property of about 40 feet on Broad Street and about 50 feet on Central Street (the southwesterly corner) was left by Bussey to Harvard College, and finally turned over with the other properties, April 30, 1861. The land is now assessed at \$50 per foot.

From the Massachusetts Fire and Marine Insurance Company, on July 24, 1835, Mr. Bussey acquired title to a large parcel of land, 111 feet on Washington Street (formerly called Orange Street) and about 160 feet deep. It is on each corner of what is now Waterford Street, which has since been laid out. Messrs. Charles and Francis Head were given this property by Mr.

Bussey's will, the land alone being assessed in 1914 at about \$5 per foot.

The Bussey funds were largely kept invested in mortgages on Boston property prior to the time when the trustees turned the estate over to the College. The mortgages were assigned to the College, as were also two other properties acquired by the trustees of the will. One of these, acquired about 1859, was the property now numbered 95-101 Arch Street, about 65 feet on Arch Street by 111 feet on Bussey Place and passageway; the other a warehouse now numbered 86 South Market Street, about 24 by 75 feet, conveyed to the Trustees by the City of Boston, October 18, 1855.

In conclusion, I do not think I could pay a better tribute to the memory of this remarkable man, than by some extracts from his funeral sermon.*

"Mr. Bussey entered life in what is generally considered a misfortune, but in reality is often found to be far otherwise — in poverty. And to this very circumstance exciting his industry, economy and perseverance, he owed, probably, his after success and his ample means of usefulness in a variety of ways. He possessed the disposition as well as the means to accomplish. . . .

* From a pamphlet called "Tribute to the Memory of Benjamin Bussey, Esq., who died at Roxbury, January 13th, 1842." By Thomas Gray, D. D., Senior Pastor of the Church, Jamaica Plain. Printed by I. R. Butts, No. 2 School Street, 1842.

“By means of much reading, which he greatly loved, and an iron memory, which he possessed, he had heaped together a large amount of miscellaneous knowledge, far surpassing that of many who have enjoyed much superior advantages for cultivation and improvement, even in a University.

“In all public subscriptions and contributions, expectation was never disappointed. Once in each month we witness on our Communion Board rich evidence of his regard for our Church — two very large, elegant silver flagons presented by him. He contributed one-fourth of the whole expense of our sweet toned organ and nearly the same amount to the purchase of our bell, which has so recently summoned him to his last abode.

“He breathed largely that charity which covers a multitude of faults. Of his most ungrateful enemies, he spoke only with compassion. He observed to a friend only two days previous to his death: — ‘I find I am about to leave you and I can say God’s will be done. My cares are now daily increasing and my powers daily diminishing and it is the best for me to depart.’

“He is now gone and his works have followed him. Here in our quiet little cemetery he rests in silence on his narrow bed. Peaceful be his slumbers there.”

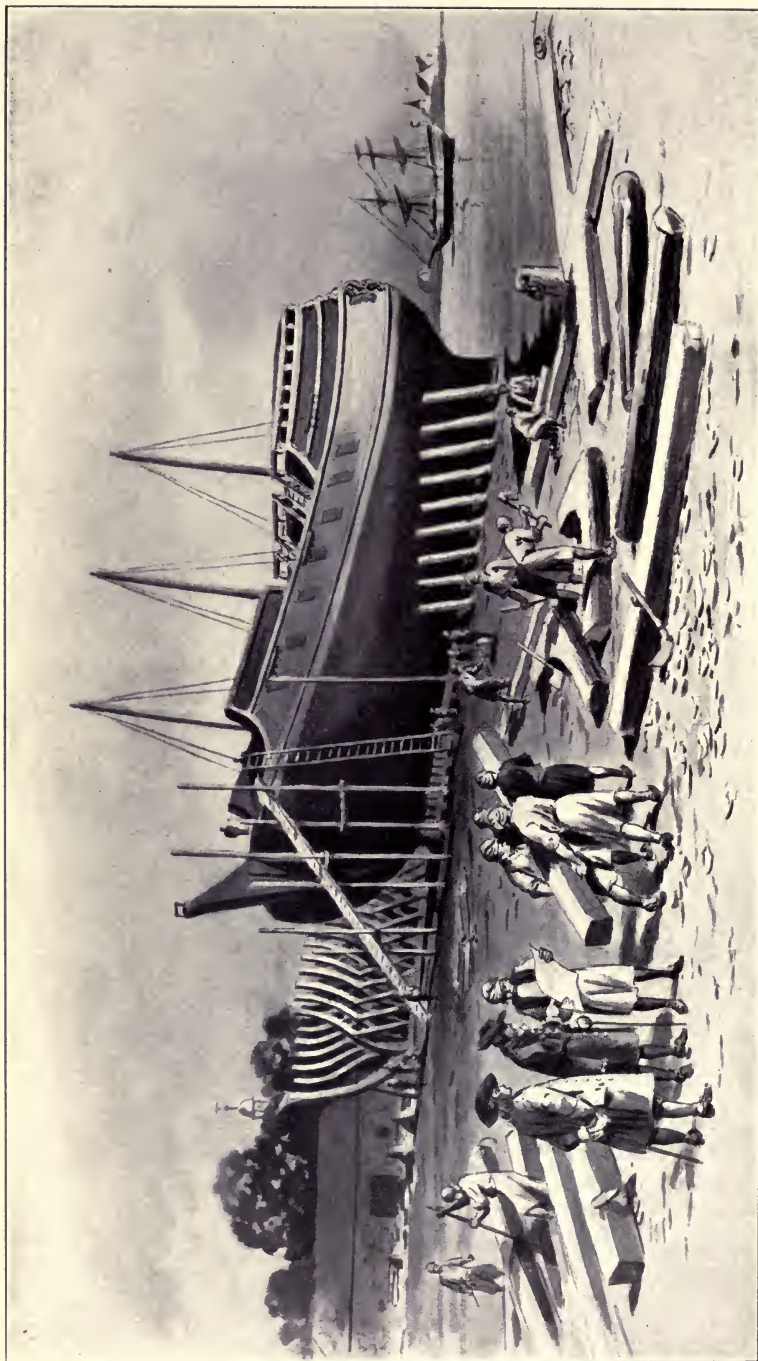


ALEXANDER ADAMS

And his Relation to the Early Shipbuilders of Boston

BY

REV. WILLIAM HYDE



A SHIPYARD OF THE COLONIAL PERIOD



ALEXANDER ADAMS

And his Relation to the Early Shipbuilders of Boston

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE BOSTONIAN SOCIETY, IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, AT A MEETING HELD MARCH 18, 1913, BY

REV. WILLIAM HYDE



ALEXANDER ADAMS was the son of Henry Adams of Colchester in Essex, England, and the grandson of Henry. He was born in Colchester in 1614, and came to New England with Captain Thomas Hawkins, who had permission to travel to America, dated May 8th, 1632, so that it must have been about that time they came to Boston.

Alexander Adams, we are told, was a large man, of a ruddy countenance and a kind and genial nature. He was a shipwright by trade, and as he was closely associated with Elias Parkman and Captain Thomas Hawkins, who came to Dorchester, and settled at

Rocky Hill, now Savin Hill, it is most likely that Alexander Adams came there at first also. In 1644 Adams married Mary Coffin, the daughter of Peter Coffin and his wife Joan, of Brixham, in Devonshire, England, who came with her brother, Tristram Coffin, her mother, Joan, and her sister, Eunice, to New England in 1640. Mary Coffin was born at Brixham in February, 1620.

Alexander Adams removed to Merry's Point at the North End, Boston, in 1645. He bought a house and lot at this point from John Wilson. This lot was owned at first by Walter Merry, who built the house, and sold it to John Seabury, seaman, in 1639, who, in turn sold it to John Wilson. Mr. Adams seems to have added to the house on this lot and, in 1646, he was permitted to maintain a highway along the shore for carts and horses. He continued to build ships here during his lifetime, and had much to do with the early ship building of Boston. He educated thirty apprentices to the ship building trade, some of whom, as William Parkman, for instance, became quite noted among the early business men of Boston.

Mr. Adams was admitted as a member of the First Church in Boston, May 31st, 1646, and became a Freeman May 10th, 1648. On December 10th, 1647, he with his wife were dismissed for a season to the Church in Dorchester.

His children were as follows : —

1. Mary, born January 19th, 1645; baptized at the First Church January 25th, 1645, being about six days old.

2. Susan or Susanna, for both forms of the name are given to her, born May 14th, 1648; baptized at the First Church May 21st, 1648, aged eight days.

3. Martha, baptized at the First Church July 27th, 1650; there is no other record of her.

4. John, born February 13th, 1652; baptized at the First Church February 26th, 1653.

5. Samuel, born May 7th, 1656; baptized at the First Church May 11th, 1656.

6. Susanna, born July 21st, 1658. The first Susanna, who was the second child, died young, as this sixth child was also named Susanna, as was frequently done when an elder child of the same name died.

7. Elizabeth, baptized July 25th, 1658. Elizabeth seems also to have died young, as there is another Elizabeth later. The second Susanna and Elizabeth were apparently twins.

8. Elizabeth, born October 1st, 1660; baptized at the First Church October 30th, 1660; married William Parkman.

Of these children, Susanna married John Phillips, a man of some importance, famous for some savory letters which he wrote. He was probably the son of Lieutenant William Phillips and his wife Bridget, was born September 18th, 1656, and baptized at the First

Church September 21st, 1656. John Phillips and his wife Susanna apparently did not remain in Boston, for there is no record there of their marriage or of the birth of their children in Boston, although they had John, William, Thomas, James, Edward, Samuel and Elizabeth.

Alexander Adams became a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston in 1652, and four years later, in 1656, was First Sergeant of the Company.

From 1655 to 1661 he held the position of Water Bailiff of Boston.

Adams was associated with the early shipbuilders of Boston, and these early shipbuilders were his neighbors; among them were Walter Merry, Captain Thomas Hawkins and Nehemiah Bourne, whose shipyards adjoined his own. Shipbuilding as a trade in the Massachusetts Bay Colony began in 1631, a year after the arrival of Governor Winthrop, although it is said that in 1607 there was a pinnace built by the Popham Colony at the mouth of the Kennebec River, named the "Virginia," which made a successful voyage to England in that year. If so, this must have been the first vessel built in New England.

A shipwright came to Plymouth in 1624, but after he had built two shallops he died, and but little building was done there at first, except that in 1641 Edward Bangs launched a bark of forty tons' burden; but

most of the vessels built in that Colony were of small size.

Robert Moulton, a shipwright, with six others, came to Charlestown in 1629, but he remained only a few years, and built vessels of small size.

The first vessel built in the Bay Colony was a bark of thirty tons' burden which the Governor had built on the Mystic River, and to which he gave the name, "Blessing of the Bay." She was built at what is now Medford, on an estate of six hundred acres, called Ten Hills Farm, granted by the General Court to Governor Winthrop. Governor Craddock also had something to do with the work. The bark was built of locust timber cut on the farm and was launched in 1631. She was in reality a little less than forty tons' burden, although called a thirty ton bark, and she made her first trip to Long Island. Later she was fitted up as a cruiser against pirates and was the first vessel of war in the country

One of the first engagements in the Colony occurred in 1636. A ten ton sloop owned by John Gallop met a sloop in Long Island Sound, which had been taken by Indians from Oldham. It was manned by fourteen Narragansett Indians, but Gallop's sloop recaptured the ship and ten of the Indians were killed.

In 1632, at Ten Hills Farm on the Mystic, Craddock had a vessel of one hundred tons on the ways, and as soon as that was launched he had two others of two

hundred tons' burden each to build. Besides the yards in Boston and on the Mystic, which were turning out ships of various sizes, there was also Willoughby's shipyard in Charlestown, which was busy in the same kind of work.

From 1631 to 1640, other ships were built on the Mystic, and at Salem and Marblehead. At Salem, in 1640, a ship of three hundred tons' burden was built by Mr. Hugh Peters, and the inhabitants of Boston then began the work of shipbuilding in real earnest. Laws were made to ensure the proper kind of building, and men of experience were set over the work to direct and control the workmen, so that the construction should be well and correctly done. Under these circumstances men like Merry, Hawkins, Bourne and Adams were of the greatest value. Shipbuilding was not only their business, but it was the trade they were familiar with before leaving England; and as there was a demand for shipwrights, these men of experience in the art of shipbuilding, trained many apprentices, who became the workmen in the shipyards of Boston.

The first ship built in Boston was constructed in the yard of Captain Nehemiah Bourne, at the North End in 1641. Governor Winthrop says it was hard to build this ship, for money was scarce, and the men had to be content with what the country could pay. This ship was named the "Trial," and was one hundred and sixty tons' burden, and she made her first voyage to the

Azores and the West Indies, under the command of Thomas Coitmore. On her next voyage, which was to Bilboa and Malaga, she was commanded by an able and godly man, we are told, named Thomas Graves. Her cargo was fish, which was sold in Bilboa at good prices. She then proceeded with freight to Malaga, and when she returned to Boston, March 2d, 1643/4, she was loaded with wine, fruit, oil, linen, wool and other things which, so the record says, were of great advantage to the country and benefit to trade. In other voyages, potatoes, oranges and limes were brought to Boston from Bermuda, and cotton from the West Indies.

In 1642 three ships were built in Boston, and in October of that year one ship sailed from Boston for London with many passengers, who were men of chief rank in the Colony. In the cargo she carried was a great quantity of beaver. It is worth remembering that many prayers were said in the churches at their departure, during the voyages, and on the return of the ships.

In 1645 a sloop of war was built in Cambridge, carrying 14 guns and thirty men, which sailed for the Canaries and engaged a Barbary Corsair of 20 guns and seventy men.

Among the large ships built in Boston was the "Sea-fort," a vessel of four hundred tons' burden. This was built by Captain Hawkins in 1645, and many smaller vessels were built in the Boston yards, such as boats,

hoys, shallops, lighters and pinnaces, and in 1642 five of the larger vessels were at sea. Timber was plenty and shipbuilding became an extensive business, and many of the vessels were sold to other nations. It was frequently the case that the ship would deliver its cargo, and then be sold to advantage ; the value of the freight and vessel being paid in bills of exchange upon London. Shipbuilding became so extensive that the whole North End was full of caulkers of vessels, and as they took great interest in politics, gathering together in taverns and other places to meet, there being so many caulkers among them, such a meeting was called a caucus, and it is said by some that this is the origin of the word.

The first American ship engaged in the slave trade was built in Boston in 1645, and went on her first cruise to Guinea. She was fitted out by Thomas Keyes and James Smith ; but the citizens of Boston were much displeased with the action.

The largest vessel in the world in 1637, was the "Sovereign of the Seas." She was built in England and was launched in 1637, and was just sixteen hundred and thirty-seven tons' burden, being purposely built to to that tonnage. She was spoken of as the wonder of the world at the time and attracted great attention wherever she went.

The largest ship in those days in the Colony was built at Germantown, in what is now Quincy, and the present Fore River shipyard at Quincy is not more

than a mile from the spot where this ship was built. She was one hundred feet long and one thousand tons' burden, was built by Major Shaw and commanded by Captain Job Prince. There was a fortune-teller living at Lynn at the time, and she predicted that the vessel would be lost at sea in her first voyage, but the prophecy failed, for this vessel, large for the time, made her voyage without loss or disaster.

Walter Merry was one of the first settlers at the North End, and was also one of the earliest shipbuilders in Boston. He settled on what was later called Merry's Point, named for him, and the North Battery was built out from his land. He owned several lots in the North End, but the one on which he lived is numbered 32, in Plan A, of the Memorial History of Boston, Vol. II, p. iv.

He was thus next neighbor to Alexander Adams, and his lot was on Ship Street, later called North Street, now named Commercial Street. There was on the sea bank in front of his house a highway over which a roof was built from the house to his wharf, — to the displeasure of the Selectmen. When Middle Street, now Hanover Street, was extended in the rear of his lot in 1644, he was allowed the cost of fencing on that side; and in 1646, he was ordered to keep the highway open on the shore, sixteen feet broad, but he sold the property to William Douglass. Douglass sold it to Henry Brown, with a building on it, called "Anker's Shop."

Merry also owned the next lot, No. 33 in plan A, on which the North Battery was built. He was drowned in Boston Harbor in 1657.

Nehemiah Bourne, the son of Robert Bourne, a shipwright of Wapping, in the parish of Whitechapel, London, was born in 1611. His father intended that he should receive a college education, but as he died in 1625, when Nehemiah was fourteen years of age, his plans were not carried out. Nehemiah Bourne preferred to follow his father's trade as a shipbuilder, and in 1632 married a young woman named Hannah.

The immigration of merchants, masters and owners of ships was forbidden by law in 1638, and so a pass from the King was necessary to go to the Colony. Such permission being granted, Nehemiah Bourne came to Charlestown in that year, where he became a shipbuilder, merchant and trader. He was for a time also in Dorchester. He entered into shipbuilding with Captain Thomas Hawkins, and was joint owner with him in the "Sparrow," a vessel of fifty tons' burden. Nehemiah Bourne came to the North End in 1640, and had a lot, wharf and shipyard at Merry's Point, numbered 38 in Plan A, already referred to. He built the "Trial" in 1641, and went back to England, serving as a Major in the Parliamentary Army, but was in Boston again in 1645 and 1646. He afterwards became a Rear Admiral in the Parliamentary Navy, and died in 1691 at the age of eighty years.

Captain Thomas Hawkins, another of the early ship-builders associated with Alexander Adams, was a shipwright at Whitechapel in London, and came to New England soon after May 8th, 1632. He resided first at Dorchester, then in Charlestown, where he was an owner of property in 1636, and afterwards owned property at the North End. He was extensively engaged in shipbuilding and commerce. He built the ship "Seafort" and was part owner in the ships "Seabridge," "Philip and Mary," "Increase," and "Greyhound." These four ships were hired by La Tour to take part in his expedition against D'Aulney at Acadia. Hawkins owned land in Charlestown in 1636, and in Dorchester in 1638. He was made a freeman, May 22d, 1639. In 1638 he became a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, was Lieutenant in 1642 and 1643, and Captain in 1644. This is said to be the only instance of that nature in the history of the Company.

After the ship "Seafort" was launched he sailed in her himself, November 23d, 1644, for Spain, where he was wrecked and nineteen persons drowned. He was wrecked again at the same place in another ship on April 2d, 1645.

The records of the Dorchester Church bear his name and that of his wife Mary. His daughter Sarah, who was baptized March 24th, 1638/9, was married to Robert Breck, a merchant from Galway, Ireland, January 4,

1653. His daughter Abigail, baptized in 1642, married May 13th, 1660, Samuel Moore. Another daughter, Elizabeth, married Adam Winthrop, son of the elder Governor John Winthrop, she being his second wife. The fourth daughter of Captain Hawkins, Hannah, married Elisha Hutchinson, son of the famous Anne Hutchinson.

One record says that Captain Hawkins died on his ship coming from England in 1648, while Drake says he was lost in a wreck because he was not born to be hanged. An inventory of his estate was filed July 26th, 1654, and the estate was divided between his wife, son Thomas and four daughters. The son sold some land in 1666. The widow married for her second husband Captain Robert Fenno, some time before October 29th, 1657. She married as her third husband, Henry Shrimpton, a brazier from London, who came to Boston in 1639. He had a house and garden on the upper corner of State and Exchange Streets.

On Plan A, of estates in the North End, as shown in the Memorial History of Boston, a Thomas Hawkins is given as the owner of lot No 4; this was not, however, Captain Hawkins, but another, a baker by trade, who may have been the son of the captain. This lot was partly on Hanover Street, and at one time its owner kept the Star Inn, from which the old highway went over the little bridge near Mill Cove, behind the water mill to the ferry for Charlestown. Thomas Hawkins is

also given as owner of lot No. 8, on Mill Creek and lot 55, which was near North Square; but the most important lot he owned was the one in front of which was Captain Hawkins' shipyard. This is numbered 39 in Plan A, and was bought by Hawkins from Edward Bendall in 1645. There was a house on this lot when Hawkins bought it, but he is supposed to have built another on the corner of what is now North and Clark Streets, which became known as the Old Ship Tavern, and was also called "Noah's Ark"; these names being given it because of a rough representation of a ship over the door; it was built of English brick, laid in English bond, and had deep jetties, Lutheran attic windows and triangular floor timbers. At first it was two stories high, but a later owner added a third. There was a large crack in the front wall, said to have been caused by the earthquake of 1663, which made all New England tremble. In the division made of Hawkins' estate this house and land was given to his widow, and in 1650 I find that there was a little dispute about the way along the shore from the Dock to Gallop's Point. This road was laid out in 1643, and was to be a rod in breadth from Gallop's Point to the Battery. In 1650 it was found that the road was obstructed by Hawkins' house, and at that time some little change was made so that the road turned up from the water side through Mrs. Hawkins' garden, by Mr. Winthrop's house, between Major Bourne's house and his

garden, and then in front of Holyoke's house to the Battery.

The Ship Tavern passed indirectly from Captain Hawkins to John Vyall who, as early as 1653, kept it as an Inn. The house was associated with some stirring events, and it was in a room in this house that Sir Robert Carr, the Royal Commissioner of Charles I, assaulted the constable and wrote his letter of defiance to Governor Levett. The house was in existence until 1866.

Of the neighbors and associates of Alexander Adams engaged in the building of ships, Merry died in 1657, Bourne went back to England in 1646, and Hawkins died in 1648. Of the quartette of shipbuilders who lived so close together this left only Alexander Adams, and as he lived until 1677, he must have had a large effect on the early ship building of Boston. There seems to be no record of his having built any large vessels, but only those of moderate size.

The apprentice system was common at this time, and as there was great demand for labor in the shipyards, the apprentices were often induced to leave one yard and go to another by the promise of increased pay or lighter work. In spite of all this Alexander Adams, from 1646 or 1648 to 1675, educated thirty apprentices, and these young men, trained to the trade, were added to the shipbuilding forces of Boston. The effect of this must have been felt in the industries of the town until 1700 and later.

Admiral Preble tells us that in 1676, there were afloat thirty vessels of from 100 to 250 tons' burden; twenty vessels from 50 to 100 tons' burden; two hundred vessels from 30 to 50 tons' burden, and three hundred from 6 to 10 tons' burden. In 1698 Boston had twenty-five ships of from 100 to 200 tons' burden, and thirty-eight of 100 tons and less. Of brigantines there were fifty; of ketches, thirteen; of sloops, sixty-seven; and of other vessels one hundred and ninety-four, making four hundred and seven altogether. No doubt Alexander Adams had contributed a great part to the production of this fleet.

Adams died January 17th, 1677, at the age of sixty-three years, and on February 6th, 1679, his widow Mary, married William Wasser of Boston, who died in 1695. Though she was a thin, frail woman, she died of dropsy, September 18th, 1691. She is said to have been a woman of most excellent character, of a sweet temper, of eminent piety and holiness, and of great self-denial, courage and zeal in the cause of God.

Among the apprentices who received their education in shipbuilding from Alexander Adams was William Parkman. He was the son of Elias Parkman and his wife Sarah Trask, and the grandson of Elias and Bridget Parkman, who came to Dorchester in 1633.

William Parkman was born in Salem, Mass., March 29th, 1658. On May 18th, 1680, he married Elizabeth Adams, the daughter of Alexander Adams. After his

marriage, he sometimes went with his father on voyages to Curacoa and elsewhere, but he lived with his father-in-law, built vessels in the same shipyard with him, and in the end succeeded him in the business. Could we trace the other twenty-nine apprentices, no doubt we would find some of them in the shipbuilding business; for in the latter part of the seventeenth century there were sixteen shipyards in Boston.

In the later years of his life William Parkman devoted most of his time to the manufacturing of masts for ships, and we then find him referred to as a mast merchant. He died of apoplexy, November 28th, 1730, and was succeeded in the business by his son, William Parkman, who was so prominent in the New North Church, and was one of its first elders, and who, on September 2d, 1743, became the Presiding or Ruling Elder. He lived in the house on Ship Street which had been the home of Alexander Adams.

William Parkman and his wife, Elizabeth Adams, had twelve children, one of whom was the Rev. Ebenezer Parkman of Westborough, the father of Samuel Parkman, the rich merchant of Boston, from whom came the Parkman millions.

The house in which Alexander Adams, and later the Parkmans lived, was for years called the "Ancient Mansion," sometimes the "Ancient Parkman Mansion," because William Parkman, a grandson of William and Elizabeth Parkman, finally bought out all the other

heirs. It was a large square wooden house, and was located on Ship Street, although some records state that it was on Battery Street. In the early days however there was no Battery Street, although there was a Battery Alley, which was also called Battery Lane. The location of the house was, therefore, apparently on the corner of Ship Street and Battery Lane, which in time came to be called Battery Street. The mansion remained in the possession of the Parkman family till about 1880, and stood all the time from the days of Alexander Adams to that date, with the front door opening at the side on the yard, and the shingles growing blacker and blacker, and never putting on the modern fashion of paint. It was then sold and made into a store, but in 1894 Battery Street was widened, and the house which had been the home of Alexander Adams, of William Parkman, and of Rev. Ebenezer Parkman, gave way to the spirit of improvement and was no more.



ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

SELECTED FROM THE COLLECTIONS

OF THE

BOSTONIAN SOCIETY



LIST OF INDENTURES RECORDED IN BOSTON, 1668-92



THE following list of persons apprenticed in Boston between the years 1668 and 1692, shows also the names of their masters and in many cases the towns to which the apprentices removed.

The list in the Society's Collections is copied from a record-book of the Town of Boston.

- 1668 March 25 John Russell son of Eliz^h Russell wid is
Apprenticed to Jon^a More of Southold, Lg. Is^d.
Col. N. Y.
- 1669 Feb. 2 Mehitabel Gilbert dau. of John Gilbert lat of
Boston is App^d to Tim^o White of Scituate.
- 1679 Sept. 29 Elizabeth Corbison dau. of Sam^l Corbison
formerly of Kenebecke is App^d to Nath^l Salton-
stoll, Esq. Hav^{ll}.
- 1679 Sept 2 Mary Travis dau. of James Travis late of
Quabuage App^d to John Hollis Weighmoth

- 1679 Feb. 6 Mary Bucknam dau of John Bucknam of Boston App^d to Jacob Hill of Malden Gunsmith
- 1679 August 20 Mary Russell dau of Eliz^h Russell wid. Boston App^d to Augustine Willims of Stougⁿ col. Count
- 1679 April 9 Ann Duram by Selectmen of Boston App^d to John Tower of Boston
- 1679 Mar 16 James Gonge by Selectmen of Boston App^d to John Comball of Boston Joyner
- 1679 December 29 Sarah Dunham dau of Humphrey Dunham of Casco Bay App^d to Rob^t Snell of Boston.
- 1680 August 9 Eliz Cumall dau of Tym^o Cumall App^d to Edw^d Cowell of Boston
- 1680 January 1 Elizabeth Fry by Selectmen of Boston App^d to Richard Norton
- 1680 Nov. 1 William Camell son of Tym^o Camell is App^r to John Eaton of Reading.
- 1680 July 3 By the advice and approbation of the Hon. Gov. Symon Bradstreet and Capt. John Hall Esqrs. The present selectmen of Boston have put Jacob Bowie, son of Jacob Bowie late of Boston, apprentice to Stephen Willis of Medford Yeoman.
- 1680 June 21 John Humphreys son of Tho. Humphreys by his own will & consent of his grandfather George Land of Hingham is app^r to Tho^s Smith of Boston Witnesses Thomas Brattle John Joyliffe
- 1680 Jan 4 Tho^s Coffee with consent of George Elliot of Piscataqua is app^d to John Temple Joyner for 9 ys frm Feb 1680

- 1680 Sept 10 Bethiah Mathews daugh of John Mathews is
App^d to John Ellis of Medford frm Jan. 1680 for 8
years.
- 1682 Sep 28 Abigail Barnam dau of Eliz^h Barnam of Bos-
ton wid. App^d to James Bates of Hingham for 8
ys frm date. wit^s J. Bates Sen^r & Ruth his Wife.
- 1683 Jan 4 James Morgan of Boston Lap^y binds David
his son App^e to Henry Cram unto age of 21
- 1690 Aprl 28 John Reynolds of Antigua now in Boston is
App^d to And^w Meriam of Boston for 6 ys frm
Ap 1
- 1690 This Indenture made & concluded &c betw
- 1692 Oct 24 Joseph Farell Jun^r of Boston in N. E. An-
chor Smith and Moses Ghest born in the City of
Westminster in King^m of G. B. of his own will &
consent of John Sunderland of Boston Mar^r for 3
ys & 8 mo. App^d before Tym^o Trout one of his
Maj^s Jus^c &c.





ELEGY TO
GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

1793



THE death of Governor Hancock was the occasion for several persons in Boston to invoke the poetic Muse to to his memory.

An example copied from the original manuscript presented to the Society by Walter K. Watkins, is here first given in print.

An anthem sacred to his memory, by Dr. Rogerson, and dedicated to religious societies, was printed and on sale at the time.

According to the following letter, contributed by Mr. Watkins, an anthem composed by Hans Gram, organist of Brattle Street Church, was also presented. Lines from a young lady and other contributions were printed in the "Independent Chronicle" at the time.

SIR !

permit that I most humbly address you the inclosed, which a Choir of Choice Singers propose to perform at Brattle Street Church next Sunday Afternoon after Service.

That Illustrious Name & much affecting Likeness that Heav'n is pleas'd to leave in your person for the mourning Sons of Columbia ; may this valuable Comfort long remain amongst us, blessed with the Smiles, which the Allmighty reserves for Hancocks !

And whereas you now by the will of the Supreme shall be our great our beloved Hancock, may you long enjoy the magnitude of your Lot, the affection & the highest esteem of your Country.

Most humbly

HANS GRAM.

Boston the 14th of Octobr 1793.

Elegy

sacred to the Memory of His Excellency Governor Hancock the great Asserter & Defender of the Rights & Liberties of his Country, who departed this Life October 8th 1793 in the 57th year of his Age.

The weeping Muse wou'd tune the mournfull Lyre
And Hancock's Merit shall his Theme inspire ;
His matchless Worth through every distant Clime
Shall be resounded to the latest time ;
And Millions bless the Day that they were born
When Godlike Hancock did these States adorn ;
On Fame's bright Wings his glorious Name shall soar
'Till Stars shall fall & Systems be no more,
His Charitable Deeds the Widows know,
The helpless Orphans & the Child of Woe ;
None e'er apply'd but what obtain'd Relief,
Cheer'd by his liberal Acts — he sooth'd their Grief.
Chose first in Congress ; he undaunted rose,
And thunder'd Vengeance on his Country's foes ;
On Monuments engrav'd his patriot Name
Shall be resounded by the Trumps of Fame,
See Wreaths of Laurels deck a Hancock's Brow
And Freedom's Cypress patriot spirits strow
Around his Tomb — his Memory they'll endear,
And weeping Freedom drops the silent Tear,
Mourns o'er the Ashes of her favourite Son,
And cries "The Crown of Glory he has won."
Immortal Statesman ! round his Saviour's Shrine
He sings Hosannas with the harps divine,
See Massachusetts mourns — her Hancock's dead !
But his Immortal Soul to Heaven has fled,

Columbia weeps & by her Loss distrest
Whilst he is crown'd with an Eternal Rest ;
To Heaven's Expanse methinks I see him rise,
By Angels welcom'd to his native Skies ;
See patriot spirits weave a heavenly crown
The Palm of Virtue & of Just Renown.

On Freedom's Altar Hancock's Name
Ascends amidst the Shouts of Fame
The Widows & the Orphans mourn
Their Friend & Benefactor's gone,
But methinks I hear them cry,
Hancock lives supreme on high.

Yes! 'till the last Herald of departing Time,
Commands thou Sun retire — thou Moon turn pale,
So long shall Hancock's praise in strains sublime,
On Wings of winged Winds triumphant sail.

For him a Nation's grateful Tears are shed ;
This vast Republic weeps the Man they lov'd
Wide human Nature mourns the glorious dead,
By present & by future Worlds approv'd.

Ah! shall the narrow Grave confine the best of Men —
Or sculptur'd Marble bind him in the Tomb?
Oh No! 'tis writ by fate's eternal Pen ;
"That a whole Universe is Virtue's Home."

As the dead Patriot's honor'd Relics past,
The Pomp was darken'd & the Day o'ercast ;
This World of Pleasures pass'd unheeded by —
And the big Tear stood trembling in the Eye.
How sleeps a Hancock — sunk to Rest
With all his Country's wishes blest ;
When Spring with dewy Fingers cold,
Returns to deck his hallowed Mould,
She there shall dress a sweeter Sod,
Than Fancy's Foot-steps ever trod ;
And Freedom shall awhile repair
To be a weeping Hermit there.

I do protect the Faithfull — Heaven does cry
And such as Hancock shine above the Sky.

Whilst over the Urn of our deceased & beloved
Friend we drop the Tear of Gratitude may we
emulate his Virtues, may we follow his glorious
Example & at last may we like him acquire a
Crown of Glory in the Celestial World.





A BOSTON SUBSCRIPTION*

FOR MEN AND SUPPLIES

FOR THE

CONTINENTAL ARMY

Ward No 8.

Boston June 15, 1780.

The Town of Boston having by a late Vote determined that the charge of raising their proportion of Men for the Continental Army, over & above the encouragement given by Government shall be defrayed by a Town Tax; and having also Voted to borrow a Sum of Money not exceeding two hundred thousand

* Reprinted verbatim from the original document which contains many of the subscribers' autographic signatures. The eighth ward of the Town of Boston in 1780 was bounded as follows: "8. From the South East corner of Wing's Lane running upon the Southerly side of it, and so on the easterly side of Hanover street, and then running down to the Westerly side of Queen and King Street on the Long Wharf, and thro' Merchants' Row to Mr. Jackson (the Brazier's) Shop, taking in Dock Square."

Pound: for the purpose of paying the Men to be raised their Bounty & Milage, and also for procuring Shirts Blankets Shoes & Stockings as required of the Town by a late Resolve of the General Afsembly; which Money so borrowed is to be paid into the Town Treasury for which the Treasurer is to give his Negotiable Notes to the respective Lenders carrying Interest, which Moneys are to be discharged out of the aforesaid Tax, as it fhall be brought into the Treasury — therefore.

We the Subscribers apprehending it to be of the last importance at the present Crisis, that our proportion of Men be immediately raised, and the proper Supplies forwarded; hereby cheerfully engage to furnish the respective Sums set against our Names.

Isaac Smith	Four thousand Dls.	paid
S. Higginson	Four thousand Dollars <u>4000</u>	paid
Tuttill Hubbart	One-thousand Dollars	paid
Ralph Inman.	One Thousand Dollars	paid
John Simpkins	One Thousand Dollars	paid
John Newell	one Thoufand Dollars	
Mofes Black	One Thousand Dollars	paid
Henry Prentifs	One Thousand Dollars	paid
Rufsel Sturges	One Thousand Dollars	paid
Martin Bicker	One Thousand Dollars	paid
Andrew Brimmer.	One Thousand Dollars	paid
Dan ^l Austin	One Thousand Dollars	paid
Josh ^a Blanchard Jun.	One Thousand Dollars	paid
Sam ^l Eliot	One thousand Dollars	paid

Edward Jackson	Five Hundred Dollars	paid
Tristram Barnard	one thousand 1000 Dollars	paid
Jonathan Harris	Five Hundred 500 Dollars	paid
David Sears	One thousand Dollars	[erased]
Thos. Holland	one Thousand Dollars	[erased]
Eliakim Raymond	five hundred Dollars	paid
David Brewer	four hundred	paid
John Griffith	Five hundred	paid
Benja. Pierpont	Five hundred	paid
Thos. Jackson	Seven hundred sixty	paid
Thomas Green	Five hundred Dollars	paid
Joshua Gardner	Two Hundred Dollars	paid
Nathan Bond	Six Hundred dollars.	paid
John Codman	one thousand 1000	paid
Thomas Downe	Two Hundred & Ten Dollars	paid
Jerhh. Belknap	100 Do.	paid
Prentice Cushing	Do. paid One Hundred Dollars.	
David Devens.	Five hundred Dollars	paid
G ⁿ . Brown	Three hundred dolls	paid
W ^m Burroughs	Eighty Dollars	paid
W ^m Smith	One thousand Dls.	paid
Nath ^{el} Noyes	Two hundred Dollars	paid
John Codman Jun ^r	Five hundred Dollars	paid
Nich ^o Lobdell.	Six hundred dolars	paid
Thos. Cox	Thirty Pounds. paid 100 Dolls	paid
John Shepard	60 Dolers.	paid
John Hinkley	Sixty pounds 200 Dolls	paid
Daniel Rea jun ^r	Sixty Pounds 200	[Erased]
James Williams	paid one hundred & fifty Dollars.	
Matt ^w Bailey	Six Hundred Dollars	paid

Sam ^l Belknap	Three Hundred Dollars	paid
William Stackpole	Five hundred Dolars	paid
Conelious Thayer	Two hundred & twenty Doll ^a	paid
Jon ^a Houghton.	five Hundred Dollars	paid
Jere ^h Belknap Jun ^r	Two Hundred Dollars	paid
Thomas Drowne	Two Hundred Dollars	paid
And ^w Black	five hundred Dollars	paid
Daniel Jones	five hundred dollars	paid
James Woodrow.	one Hund Dollars	paid.
Benj ^a Loring	Five Hun ^d Dollars.	paid
Partrick Kenney	Two Hund ^d . Dollars	paid
Caleb Blanchard	Three hund. Dolls	p ^d
Edw ^d Waive	One Hundred & Twenty Dolls.	paid
Morris Keef.	Two Hundred Dollars	paid
George Mc Kinney	Two hundred Dollars	paid
Jona ^{thn} Fowle	five Hundred Dollars	paid
Bart Broader	too Hund Dollers	Paid
Richard Carpenter	3 three hundred Dollers.	paid
Benj ^a Goodwin	Three Hundred Dollars £90	paid
David Sears	two Thousand Dollars. £600.	p ^d
Josiah Simpson	five Hund Dollars	paid
Thomas Allen	Two Hundred Doll	paid
John Kennedy	200 Dollars.	paid 200
William Boyes.	Five Hundred Dollars	paid
Elisha Clark	Five Hundred Dollars	paid
Will ^m White	One Thoufand Dollars	paid
Thom ^s Rogers	one Hundred Dollars	paid
William Thomas.	one Hundred Dollars	[erased]
Thomas Walker.	two Hundred	paid
Edm ^d Connor	one hund Dollars	Paid

William Shattuck	Two thousand Dollars	p ^d
John Shattuck	One thousand Dollars	p ^d
Mrs Perkins	one thousand Dollars	paid
Benjamin Cole [?]	Eight hundred Dolls	paid
Gowen [?] Brown		[name erased]
Tho ^s Jackson Jun ^r	Five Hundred Dollars	paid
Chrif. Gore.	five hundred Dollars	paid
Timothy White	five hundred Dollars	paid
Stephen Cooke.	one thousand Dollars	paid
David Bradle	Put in three hundred and forty Dollars	Paid
Tho ^s Watson	three hundred Dollars	paid

Subscription Ward N^o 8. J. Kneeland

Am^t to £15222





GENERAL VIEW

Of the Current Expenses of the Town of BOSTON, from May 1810 to May 1811.

Schools, salaries to Masters, repairs, &c.	15486	25
Town Watch	6312	98
Engines, repairs, and premiums paid	1582	33
Lamps, oil and lighting	7889	12
Streets, regulating and paving	13141	69
Work on Mall and Common, and Fort Hill	620	87
Salaries, Town Treasurer, 1500, Town Clerk,		
1000	2500	
Three Assessors, 2448; their attendant 38	2486	
Judge of Municipal Court, 750 Police Officers,		
1400	2150	
Secretary to Firewards, 200; his attendant, 30	230	
Messenger to Selectmen, 306.66; Door Keeper,		
100	406	66
Constable services	924	7
Bells and Clocks	507	4
Printing and Stationary	598	7

Expenses and Income of the Town of Boston 119

Improvements, of widening Streets .	16164	18
Deduct, received from Union		
Bank, .	4000	
Due from John		
Brazer .	5000-----9000	7164 18
Both being, by award of referees, their portion of expense of widening Exchange Lane.		
Grant to heirs of William Cooper, Esq. by vote of the Town		2924 28
Award of referees, by rule of Court, to heirs of Leverett for their claim on alms house land		2239 83
		<hr/> 67163 37
Overseers of the Poor		25716 83
Board of Health		8398 52
		<hr/> \$101278 72

Particular View of the Income of the Town of
BOSTON, exclusive of Taxes.)

Rents of Old State House per annum	5400
of Old Market House, Faneuil Hall	1092
of new part of do. . . .	1090
of Cellars under Faneuil Hall	1034
of Stalls in front of Market House	1680
of Deer Island	300

of Salt Marsh and Pasture .	140	10736
Proceeds of out door Market, 1 year	1869 80	
Deduct Clerk's salary . 600		
Commission on articles weighed at Public scales . . . 34 21		
Assistant's pay . 312		
Charges of cleansing, and repairs . 422 92		
	<u>1369 13</u>	
Neat proceeds to Cr. of Town		500 67
New Stalls, lately built, will produce annually		832
Proceeds of Hay Scales, the year	1191	
Allowed to hay-weigher, for services, 2-3 the re- ceipts . 794		
Expenses, repairs and charge of bulls [sic] 180 59		
	<u>974 59</u>	
Neat Proceeds to Cr. of Town		216 41
Licences to Hackney Carriages .		60
Licences to Auctioneers . . .		78
		<u>\$12423 8</u>

Published by Order of the Selectmen,

THOMAS CLARK,

Town Clerk.

MAY 22, 1811.

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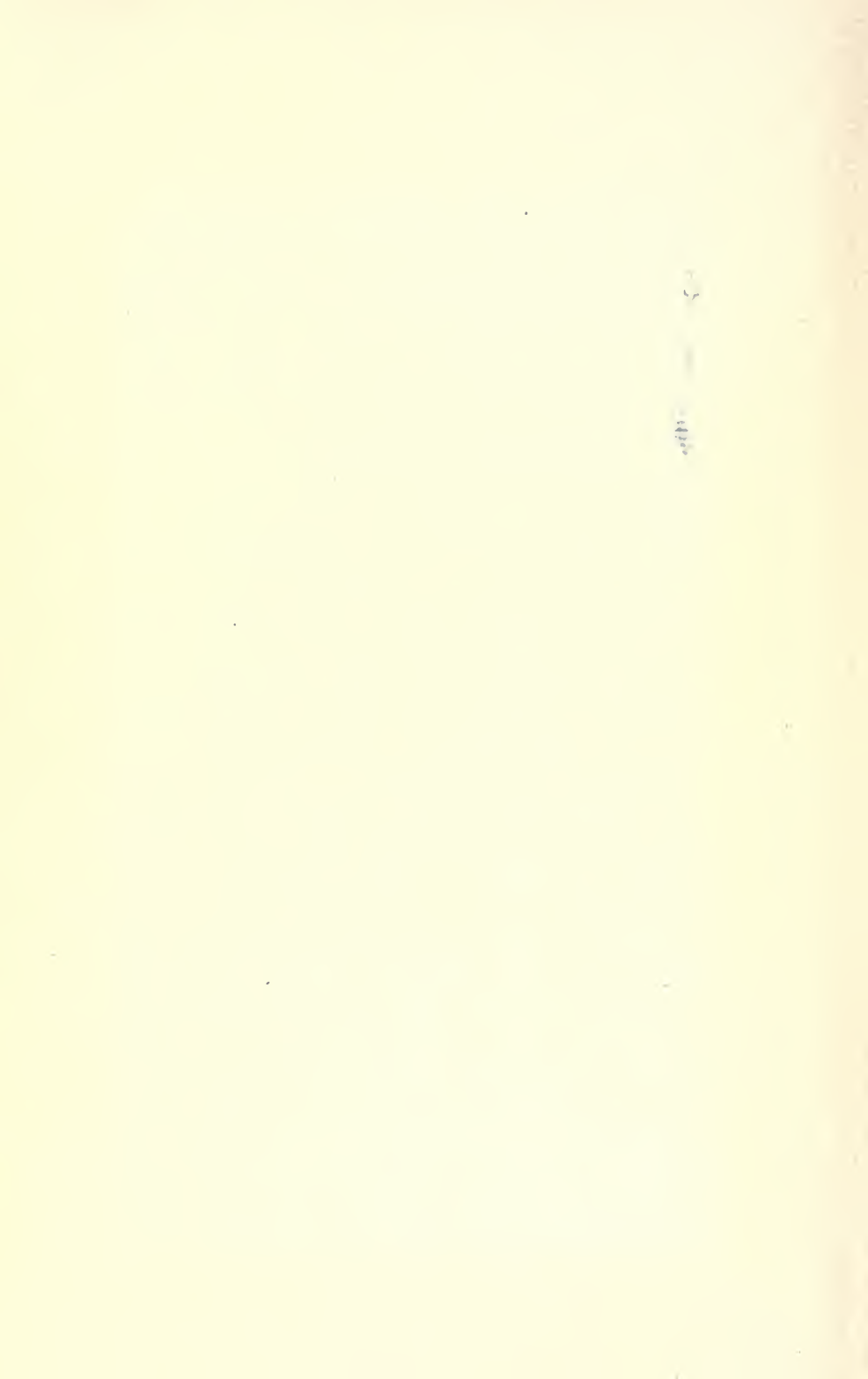
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